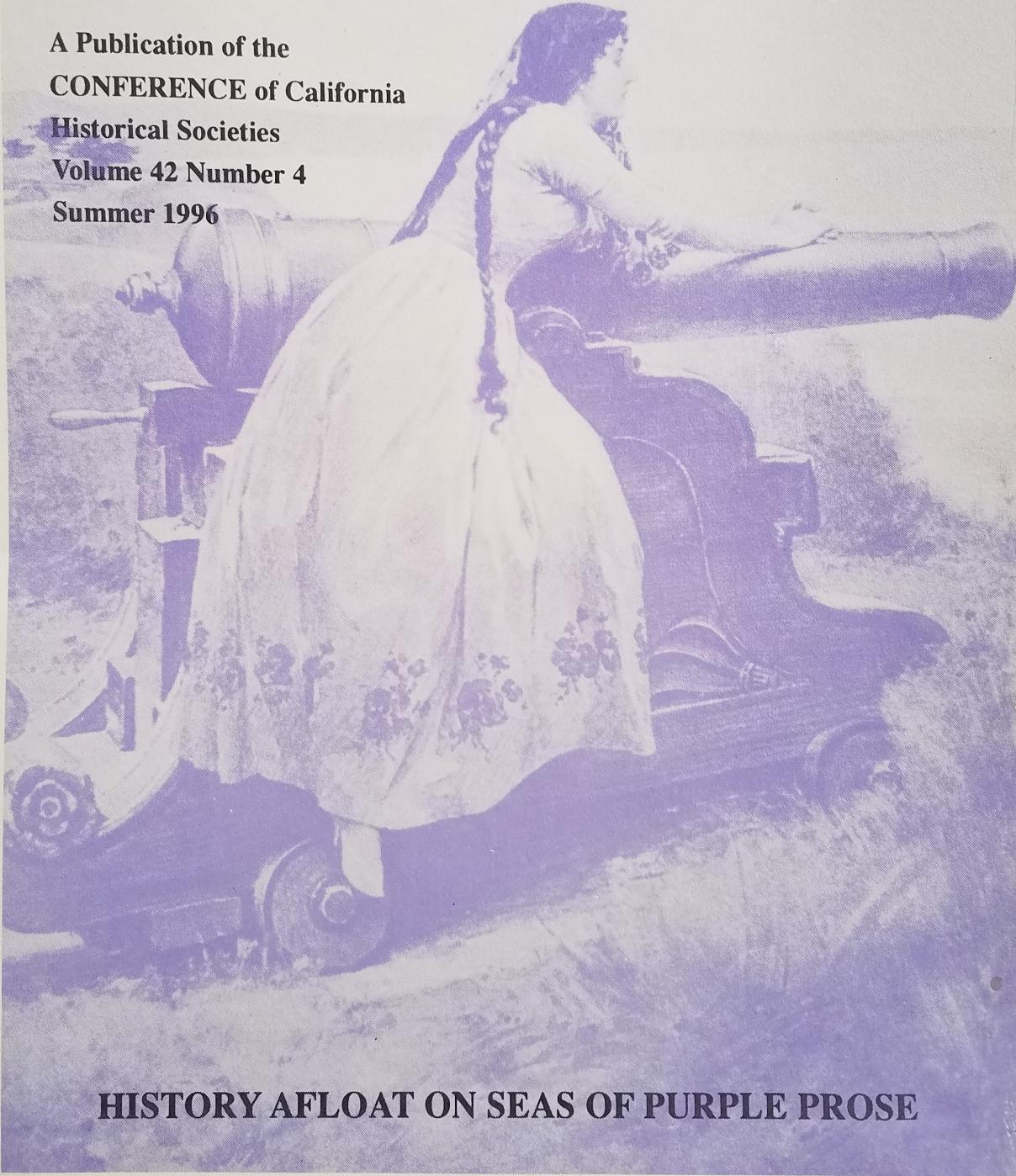




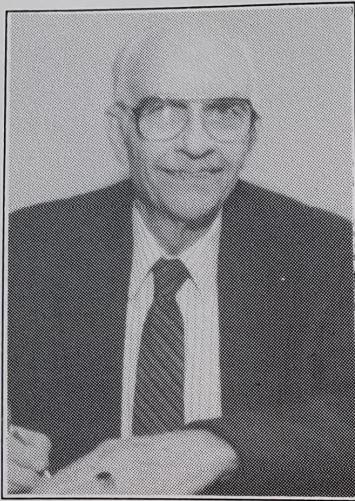
California HISTORIAN

A Publication of the
CONFERENCE of California
Historical Societies
Volume 42 Number 4
Summer 1996



HISTORY AFLOAT ON SEAS OF PURPLE PROSE

CCHS Annual Meeting Invitation - See Center Fold



"Looking back with Pride"

Archie McDonald, Retiring Conference President

In the Spring issue of this journal, I noted certain salient developments in CCHS during my term as president. I shall refer to others in this, my final opportunity to speak through

this column.

But first, I urge that you join me in celebration of the events and movement during the past two years. Four Symposia held chronologically in Walnut Creek, Santa Clarita-Newhall, Auburn and Bakersfield provided excellent programs based on research. Local tours gave in-depth awareness of "places" as sites of historic interest. Workshops aided attendees with a range of topics from increasing membership in local historical societies to library and museum acquisitions and book marketing.

Looking back at the many banquet speakers, who does not remember "The Port Chicago Explosion"? Or the traveling demonstration from the Burlesque hall of Fame? Who even knew of the Tevis 100 mile ride, much less have a first-hand account from one of its winners before Auburn? And Kern County History— "Blank Verse by the Side of the Road" version?

These illustrate the richness of the presentations. Add to that the Annual Meeting in Folsom, with its celebration at the old Folsom Power House, its place securely fixed in the history of electric current production from water power. You can appreciate the solid contribution to historic knowledge through CCHS events. Furthermore, these interesting and enjoyable opportunities for "Sharing California's Heritage" provide equal opportunity for making new friends with like interests, and renewing old friendships.

The membership brochure, revised at the close of 1995 by Publications Director Mary Otis emphasizes the above by urging history buffs to become Associate Members "for fun and to learn more about our history. Travel to historic sites with groups in guided tours. Make lasting friends... CCHS is like acquiring an extended family throughout this great state. Enjoy reading exciting issues of the [California] *Historian*."

Following discussion by the Executive Committee and analysis of mutual benefits to CCHS and the University of

"Looking toward the Future"

Art Almeida, CCHS President-Elect

In looking forward to June 1996 when I will assume the office of president of the Conference of California Historical Societies, a variety of ideas comes to mind. Of course, the first and foremost is the direction in which I would like to steer the CCHS.

Since the Conference is an umbrella organization, reasonable goals and purposes listed in our bylaws prompt the following as to what I would like to stress and encourage CCHS members to pursue. Chief among these items is preservation of buildings, sites, documents and memorabilia. In every local historical society from the Mexican border to Oregon, societies and members rightfully put their own immediate history before statewide concerns. This is not bad, as within this great state of ours, histories of every kind abound. It is the love of these past occurrences of perceived historical importance that motivates the societies and individuals to preserve what is important to them. CCHS must assist whenever possible these efforts by whatever means at our disposal. Promoting legislation and publishing helpful articles of how different groups are able to accomplish their aims are helpful ways. Twelve years with CCHS has taught me to appreciate all historical experiences statewide.

Within the coming *California Historian* publications I shall be giving my impressions that hopefully set the course for the continuing growth of CCHS. One of the main thrusts will be to link with as many statewide organizations as possible. These diverse groups, which promote California history in the broadest sense, would provide an essential network beneficial to our mutual interests. There are fertile areas in which to sow rich rewards for our societies.

The possibilities are unlimited. By going "public" we can garner more recognition than we have to date. Meanwhile, through the *California Historian*, we can continue to further a sense of pride by including more articles from as many societies and members as possible. This means the publication must be enlarged to accommodate the potential growth.

There are eight (8) distinct primary purposes that are part of CCHS Articles of Incorporation. Number 8 reads, in part; "To engage in education and social activities and services of every kind and nature whatsoever in furtherance of the pur-



California HISTORIAN

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"Sharing California's Heritage"

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Back Cover: *Welcome to New Members; CCHS Calendar*
In the background a trading vessel under full sail

POLICY STATEMENT

It is the intent of CCHS through the pages of the *California HISTORIAN*, to assist historical groups in the search for solutions to problems and in finding better ways to preserve our heritage, whether in document care, artifact storage, or digital data storage. It is also intended to be a means of communication and a vehicle for the dissemination of new material. We are interested in opening an opportunity for young historians to publish. We want to be a genuine support to all who love history.

The *California HISTORIAN* is published quarterly by the Conference of California Historical Societies based at the University of the Pacific in Stockton. Articles and photo-essays about state and local history are featured and may be submitted at any time. Manuscripts must be typed and double spaced, and/or on a disc compatible with Macintosh. Historical articles are expected to be supported by source notes. Deadlines for news items, calendar events and advertising is six weeks prior to publication: Jan. 15 for Spring, March 15 for Summer, July 15 for Fall and October 15 for the Winter issue, respectively. Address both editorial and advertising matters to the *California HISTORIAN*, Conference of California Historical Societies, University of the Pacific, Stockton, CA 95211. Phone (209) 946-2169.

Goof-up acknowledged

You may have noticed but the Spring 1996 *California Historian* pages are printed with Winter 1996. And the Calendar of Events has neither the Bakersfield meeting or the Lancaster meeting nor the Carson City, Nevada in September. Is this the right Calendar of Events for 1996?

C'est La vie - onward Christian soldiers.

Nan Cotton

As to the mix-up with page labeling, the editor pleads guilty to missing that goof-up, as does the proof reader. And the computer, naturally the guilty party, says, "The devil made me do it!" The Conference events are listed in a separate calendar on the back cover, but your comment leads us to believe that we should list them also in the regular listing.

Author expresses appreciation

Let me thank you for including my paper on hydraulic mining in the *California Historian* this spring. You did a nice job of laying out the photos, etc. and it was a nice ego booster.

Scott J. Lawson
Plumas County Museum

Errors noted in Kaiser paper

Thank you very much for printing my article on the Kaiser Steel plant! I was unsure where my article was in the review process . . . and then one day I discovered two copies of *California Historian* in my mail box with my name on them. The photos added some needed "color" to my dry prose. Your connections at the Bancroft paid off.

Unfortunately, I did not get the opportunity to catch an error I made in my essay. I wrote on page 11 that the Eagle Mountain iron ore mine is in San Bernardino Country, but in reality it is

Letters

in Riverside County. Not fatal I suppose, but still embarrassing. One other correction: On page three the photo caption incorrectly points out H.J. Kaiser as being on the left. Actually, that person is Eugene E. Trefethen, Kaiser's (recently deceased) right-hand man. If you look at the original photo you will find Kaiser two men down from Trefethen and wearing a light-colored hat.

Perhaps I will be able to submit other articles to *California Historian* in the future. I have enjoyed reading your journal through the years. In the future though, would it be possible to see a copy of the article before it is sent off to press? Perhaps I could have caught my faux pas (plus a couple of minor mistakes I made too) with another "look-see."

Ric A. Dias
Northern State University,
Aberdeen S.D.

Your suggestion that authors be given an opportunity to review final copy is a valid one. We hope that our budget can be expanded to cover the costs involved and that our time schedule will allow for it. Thanks for sending the corrections.

Getting the word around on park policy change

We need your help! Effective December 1, 1995, the California Department of Parks and Recreation and Destinet, the reservation system provider, implemented a new reservation policy allowing campers to reserve family and group campsites up to seven months in advance. Prior to this, campsite reservations could only be made as

early as 56 days in advance. Please pass this information on.

The camping reservation numbers remain the same, 1-800-444-7275 or 1-800-444-PARK. The new cancellation policy waives reservation cancellation fees when rebooking during the same call.

Theodore G. Crane, Chief
Park Services Division



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Legislative Report

By Nan Hauser Cotton

At the February meeting of the State Historical Resources Committee, Eugene Itogawa, manager of the Office of Historical Preservation (OHP) presented the history, scope, goals and objectives of the State General Plan. In other words, where we have been and where we are going.

The California State General Plan for the year 2000 and beyond will include suggestions on California Historical issues from the perspective of cost and from that of local historical societies.

After the committee held two public meetings in May, the comments are being incorporated, including the comments made through a questionnaire sent to non-profit organizations including the Conference of California Historical Societies. I completed this for CCHS. These, plus the OHP's own comments and amendments will be considered for final approval at the meeting on August 7, 1996.

The California Plan will include a description of projected OHP services, a brief description of the activities of cooperating historical organizations, CCHS included, and a schedule of the dates when objectives of the State Plan are targeted for completion. Several of the recommendations made by the August 1994 Heritage Task Force report have been put into effect, but the STATE GENERAL PLAN will offer a more overall perspective of historical preservation as projected into the next century, according to Itogawa.

The state plans are federally funded and final versions will be submitted to the National Park Service to be incorporated into the Federal Parks and Recreation General Plan. For more information contact Eugene Itogawa, (916) 653-8936.

Related to this is the pending SB 875, a bill introduced by Senator Marks on 2-23-95, and titled "Income, Bank, Corporation Taxes: Credit." This has now become a two-year bill. It provides for a TAX CREDIT of 10% FOR RESIDENTIAL AND 20% FOR NON-RESIDENTIAL COSTS OF SEISMIC STRENGTHENING OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES. OHP could charge a service fee for certification of seismic rehabilitation activities in excess of \$20,000.

Having the approval of David Cameron, CCHS Preservation Liaison (and Chairman of the Historic Resources Commission), I will introduce a resolution to the CCHS Board for approval in June at the Annual Meeting, to be forwarded to appropriate agencies.

State genealogical issues include AB 161 (Napolitano) on access by authorized persons as researchers and family members to public records, e.g. death and birth certificates and marriage licenses. AB 161 is still in limbo, but is a two-year bill since September 1995. According to Iris Carter Jones, Legislative Coordinator for the California Genealogical Alliance, no action in the Assembly is scheduled for 1996.

AB 1158 (Kuykendall) was signed by Gov. Wilson in July 1995. Under law, California Public Records Act, public records are open to inspection during the office hours of state and local agencies with specified exceptions. This bill adds the exception for records pertaining to the retention, location, or expansion of a company within California.

There is no new action in either house pending regarding historical resources at this time. Most bills from last year are either dead, dropped by the authors, or held over as two-year bills.

Preservation two-year bills are generally on questions of property rights, seismic issues, earthquake insurance and protection, educational facilities, taxation bridge repair, prefab manufactured housing including those of historic interest or value, and rebuilding local government buildings due to seismic damage and zoning.

Trust Fund Update

The months of February, March and April brought a surge of donations to the CCHS Trust Fund. We thank all who have given toward helping meet our \$200,000 goal, and carrying out the work of the Conference.

In Memory of **Nellie E. Cross**
LaPuente Valley Historical Society

In Memory of **Philip Pope**
LaPuente Valley Historical Society

In Memory of **Richard Coke Wood**
Walter and Janct Haskell

In Memory of **Dr. Fletcher Harding**
Chuck and Maxine Tichenor

In Memory of **Myrna "Mickey" Jones**
Chuck and Maxine Tichenor

In Memory of **Joe Doctor**
Dr. Albert Shumate
Nan and Roger Cotton

In Memory of **Lois E. Green**
John Swisher

In Memory of **John F. Tye**
John Swisher

In Memory of **Jim Cummings**
LaPuente Valley Historical Society

In Honor of **ElRoy Nathan's 80th Birthday**
Muriel E. Nathan

Honoring **Walter Haskell's** years of effort
Dorothea Rible

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"Historical Outings of Southern California" publication
Tehama County Genealogical and Historical Society

Eugene and Nancy Serr
T.B. and J.B. Thomas
Charles and Meriam Sprankling
Marje and Jack Rump

TRUST FUND BALANCE, APRIL 30, 1996: \$184,063

Nickolai Rezanov and Concepcion Argüello: A Tale of Old California

The Siren Song of Poetry and Romance has led Historians Astray

By Eve Iverson

California's history is full of colorful stories and fascinating incidents. Some of them have captured the imagination of writers and have been presented as poetry and in fiction. A problem arises when fact and fiction collide. The story becomes a legend that is so strong it leads historians and writers of popular books astray.

The visit of Chamberlain Rezanov of Russia to the Presidio of San Francisco in 1806, and his romance with Concepcion Argüello is one of these cases. It inspired famous authors such as Gertrude Atherton and Bret Harte. Over the past nine decades, the tale has been told in English, Spanish and Russian.

These are works of imagination that provide entertainment. The problem occurs when the imaginary version influences historians and causes confusion. In several instances, authors of fiction such as Gertrude Atherton and Rebecca Lawrence Lee went to great pains to differentiate between their art and known fact. Other chroniclers fell under the spell of the fiction version and reported the tales to the public in books, articles and newspaper accounts as actual events which occurred. This phenomenon was first

Eve Iversen recently returned from Cuba where she presented a paper on veterinary medicine, all a part of her work as a consultant in International Agricultural Development. Not surprising when one knows that she has M.A. degrees in paleontology and agricultural development. What is a bit surprising is to discover the depth of her research into a California folk love story! Eve spent eight years as an army reserve officer at the Presidio, which, combined with her work with the City Guide Program of the San Francisco City Library, whetted her interest in a tale so closely tied to the Presidio's past. When a plea for historic preservation of the Presidio's historic buildings was made, Eve decided to find the truth about the Rezanov-Arguello legend. And she found that the truth has often been obscured by the famous authors who seized upon the story but made up "facts" to suit their own fancies.

described in detail by Alicia Milich in her Master of Arts Thesis in Spanish for the University of Southern California.¹

Later it was also discussed by Sister Mary Jane Mast in her Master of Arts Thesis for the University of San Francisco.²

The Rezanov-Argüello Romance in History

Down for the "Count"

On April 8, 1806, the vessel *JUNO* entered the San Francisco Bay harbor carrying Nikolai Petrovich Rezanov, Chamberlain of Czar Alexander I of Russia. Rezanov is often referred to as *Count*, but he did not hold a title. The mistake occurs in almost all writing in English. It first appeared in Bret Harte's poem privately printed in 1874, and may have been a mere poetic device. It is easier to rhyme a word with "count" than with "chamberlain." His poem will be discussed in detail later.

The title of *Count* was also used by the novelist Gertrude Atherton in her *Rezanov*, as well as other books. She was author of the erring article on Rezanov in *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, cited by Yarmolinsky, who pointed this out, but his clarification did not take hold in the literature.³

This elevation of Rezanov to the nobility was not caused by an error in the 1814 translation into English of the memoir by Dr. Georg Langsdorff, Rezanov's physician who had accompanied him from Russia to America. Dr. Langsdorff referred to him as *Plenipotentiary Von Resanoff*⁴ and *Chamberlain Von Resanoff*⁵. It was also not caused by historian H.H. Bancroft and his research staff. *Chamberlain Nikolai Terovich Rezanov* is given his proper rank.⁶

Sojourn at the Presidio of San Francisco

Rezanov had come to the Spanish colony on a desperate mission to obtain food supplies for the colonists of Russian America. He had found them close to starvation and racked with scurvy upon his arrival in the Alaskan settle-

ment from St. Petersburg in 1805.

The *JUNO* was challenged by the Castillo de San Joaquin located above the present site of Ft. Point. The *JUNO* sped past into the bay under full sail and then dropped anchor.

A landing party lead by Rezanov's physician Dr. Georg von Langsdorff was sent ashore. The identity of the vessel and passengers was established by the Presidio's Acting Commandant, Luis Argüello. The chamberlain was, in fact, expected and the orders were given to provide every hospitality to this good-will representative of the Czar Alexander.⁷

Rezanov and his party were taken to the Commandancia of the Presidio of San Francisco. There they were introduced to the Argüello family, including Luis' sister, the eldest daughter, Maria de la Concepcion Marcela. Her family's name for her was Concha, or Conchita.

For a week the Chamberlain impatiently awaited the return of Commandant Jose Dario Argüello and the expected visit of California Governor Jose Arillaga. In spite of the announced duties of the Czar's chamberlain, the primary mission of *JUNO* was trade, forbidden by Spanish decree. With the willing help and advice of Concepcion, Rezanov made friends with the padres of Mission San Francisco de Asis (Dolores). He also met padres from Mission San Jose and Santa Clara and was struck by the richness of the mission granaries. He met all the ladies of the presidio. By giving valuable gifts to each person, and letting it be known that more of the same was aboard *JUNO*, he gathered allies as he waited.

When the Commandant and Governor arrived from Monterey, they accepted Rezanov's credentials but Governor Arillaga adamantly refused trade proposals. They offered hospitality, including bales (dances), feasts, and even a bull-and-bear fight was scheduled.

Four weeks or more elapsed while Rezanov tried everything to persuade the officials to trade for foodstuffs. He was reinforced by the pestering of the padres who needed hardware and the ladies of the surrounding settlements.

During this period, Chamberlain Rezanov, a widower for three years, began to see the beautiful Concepcion as more than a willing ally. He began to think of her as a potential wife. He proposed to her and she accepted. He then asked Commandant Argüello for Concepcion's hand in marriage.

Arguello was aghast. The problem was not in the difference in ages. Rezanov was 42 and Concepcion only 15,



Presidio of San Francisco - 1806. From an unknown artist.

but in Spanish California she was considered nubile. The roadblock to a possible union was the difference in religion. Rezanov was Russian Orthodox and Concepcion a Roman Catholic. The schism that had split Eastern and Western Catholicism was centuries old. A union was considered a "mixed marriage" and dispensation was needed.

The padres, motivated somewhat possibly by their own desire to open up trade relations, decided to approve the betrothal and a marriage contract was drawn up. The wedding would have to wait for permission from the Pope and the King of Spain. Rezanov would need to assure his own prelates and the Czar. It was more an act of diplomacy than a wedding.

After the betrothal Rezanov was accepted as a member of the Argüello family, and a method for trading was worked out. Governor Arillaga sent Rezanov's proposal to the Viceroy in Mexico City with his own favorable comments.

Rezanov promised that he would return within two years with the necessary permissions so that the wedding could take place. Concepcion vowed that she would marry Rezanov or no one.

The Deadly Race Across Siberia

Rezanov and the *JUNO* sailed back to Alaska and delivered the cargo of foodstuffs to the desperate Russian colony. He delayed impatiently to conduct business connected with the Russian American Company, and then started his journey home. In Petropavlovsk on the Kamchatka Peninsula of Siberia, he was given dispatches telling him of Napoleon's victories and probably urging him to return to St. Petersburg as quickly as possible.

Rezanov did not wait for winter to set in, the better sea-

son for travel after snow and freezing allowed for travel by sleigh. Riding a relay of horses he moved forward with haste, twice having to stop for illness. He probably had pneumonia, and at neither stop waited long enough to recover. During a third attack, weakness caused him to fall from his horse and a flying hoof struck him in the head. The resulting concussion killed him.

The Saga of the Argüellos

Later during the year 1806, Jose Argüello was reassigned to the command of the Presidio of Santa Barbara. His son Luis took command in San Francisco. Concepcion went with her family to the new post. When Jose was relieved and appointed to the governorship of Baja, she went with her parents to Loreto. She stayed with her parents until death claimed them. During this period, suitors for the beautiful Concepcion came calling, but she would permit them no more than friendship.

Exactly when Concepcion learned of Rezanov's death is not known. Perhaps when the letter by Alexander Baranov, Manager of the Russian American Company, to Commandant Argüello in 1807, is published in English soon, a definite answer can be presumed.⁸ Dr. Nikolai Bolkhovitinov

found this copy of the letter of late in the Lenin State Library.

Rezanov had sent an outline of his vision of a Russian California to the Company ahead of himself. He recommended that a colony be established north of San Francisco where food could be grown. It was not a new idea to Baranov. In 1807, he sent Ivan Alexandrovich Kuskov, a trusted aide, to locate a suitable site. In March 1812, construction began at Kuskov's chosen installation. It became Ft. Ross, a lasting monument to Rezanov's dream.

The locket that Concepcion had given Rezanov was returned to her brother Luis at San Francisco, probably through a visiting delegation from Ft. Ross or during one of the visits made by nervous Presidio authorities to the foreign post on the Sonoma Coast.

Concepcion returned to Monterey from Loreto in 1830. She engaged in pious works, serving the poor in California for some 19 years. During this time she was a member of the Third Order Secular of the Franciscans, which meant she was as fully dedicated to a religious life as possible without becoming a nun. During this period she wore the grey robe, described in many accounts as white. Her good works won her the title "La Beata," blessed one, from the communities she served.

In 1850, Mother Mary Goemaere established the first convent in California. With special permission from Archbishop Joseph Alemany O.P., Concepcion was allowed to become a novice at the advanced age of 60. She took her vows in 1851, the first California-born nun.

Concepcion taught at St. Catherine's Academy, first in Monterey and later in Benicia, after she helped Mother Mary move the convent and school to the city on the Carquinez Strait. She continued to teach the remainder of her life, and died December 23, 1857 at the convent. She is buried in St. Dominic's Cemetery located on Hillcrest Avenue between East Fifth and East Sixth streets in Benicia. Her grave is located in the second row of the sisters' plot just off the main road. It is marked with the customary headstone and the Braghetta monument.

The Rezanov-Argüello Romance in Literature

The facts alone make a good story. They also lend themselves to poetry, fictionalization and opera. Authors have tried to capture the essence of the tale with varying degrees of historicity. Legends have formed as well. Some cannot be traced to their origin, while others have been derived from literature. The authors I will cite, Bret Harte and Gertrude Atherton in particular, did not set out to influence history, but the images they conjured up have stuck in peoples' imaginations, and are now found reported as fact.



Sister Dominica's last resting place in St. Dominic's Cemetery, Benicia, 1950s. LeNoir Miller photo.

Bret Harte

“Concepcion de Argüello (Presidio de San Francisco, 1806).” The factual sources Harte used in writing this poem have been hard to pin down. It was inspired by an article written by Major George H. Elliot, a former army officer who had served at Ft. Point prior to the Civil War. This essay on the history of the Presidio at San Francisco was published in 1870 in *Overland Monthly Magazine*. The magazine’s editor was Bret Harte, and according to Elliot, “Mr. Harte was himself much interested in the early history of California, and shortly afterward appeared his pretty little story of Concepcion de Argüello.”⁹

The first publication of the poem was in *Atlantic Monthly Magazine* in May, 1872. It next appeared in a memoir Major Elliot had privately published in 1874 for his fellow comrades at the Presidio. The dedication was to his former com-



From Forbes' account, “Sweet-faced Sister Concha.” Artist unknown.

mander, General Washington Curtis Lee, son of General Robert E. Lee.¹⁰

Major Elliot wrote that it was for “. . . yourself and others of my friends to whom the mention of the old Presidio will bring pleasant memories of ‘Auld Lang Syne’”. He probably hoped that it would help heal the memories of the recent tragic war.

The poem details the romance but implies that Concepcion and her father waited for years at the Presidio of San Francisco. That is one piece of poetic license; the

family was transferred to Santa Barbara in the summer of 1806.

At the conclusion, Harte has Concepcion, now a nun, receiving the first news of Rezanov’s death from Sir George Simpson, Governor of the Hudson’s Bay Company during his visit to Monterey in 1841.

Sir George Simpson noted in his account of this visit that Dr. Langsdorff’s book had been available since 1814.¹¹ He thought she must not have seen it. But considering the extensive contacts between Ft. Ross and Commandant Luis Argüello, it seems likely that the Mexican government would have made a translation of the San Francisco chapters’ important background information to be distributed to the Presidio Commandant.

The poem “Concepcion de Argüello” was sold by Harte to James R. Osgood and Company, owner of *Atlantic Monthly*, as part of the poet’s contract to supply the magazine with everything he wrote during the year beginning March 1, 1871. The total payment was \$10,000 and bought five pieces of Harte’s prose and seven pieces of poetry.¹² Even today this is a handsome contract.

The only major criticism of the poem was made by Henry Childs Merwin.¹³ He complained that, “Even the very beautiful poem . . . ‘Concepcion de Argüello’, a thing almost perfect in its way, strikes no new note. And yet who can forget the picture which it draws of the deserted maiden grieving....Few indeed are the poets who have surpassed the tender simplicity and pathos of these lines . . .”

The echo, however, has rung down the decades into history books and into public landmarks. In the past a sign in Monterey near the site of Santa Catalina Convent marked the place where Concepcion “took the veil.” (It is no longer there, a Marriot hotel having been erected over the site).

Harte’s poem was published as a single work in 1926 by The Private Press of Thomas C. Russell. Today it is considered a minor work, included only in complete collections of Bret Harte. In *The Writings of Bret Harte, Vol. XII*, the poem is illustrated with a painting of Concepcion sitting on a cannon at the Castillio, looking out to sea. Since the collection was assembled under the author’s direction, it is reasonable to assume that this is how he imagined her.

The Myth Continued

The image of Concepcion waiting for many years at the Presidio of San Francisco for a lover that would not return has haunted both historical and literary accounts. It has also inspired works of art which show her standing at the entrance to San Francisco Bay looking west for her beloved.

Mrs. A.S.C. Forbes presented California history in novelized form.¹⁴ Her *Mission Tales in the Days of the Dons* is smeared with purple prose. She imagined Rezanov telling Concepcion the story of an Aleut woman named Nika who

had died of hunger and cold in Russian America. This whole cloth fiction was invented as Rezanov's ploy to get Concepcion's sympathy and aid. There is no evidence that this story was ever told outside the pages of Forbes' book.

One thing that is correct in the account is her ending. She tells of Kuskov, the Ft. Ross Commander, returning Concepcion's locket which had been the girl's gift to Rezanov. Unfortunately, Forbes has Concepcion returning to San Francisco to accept it. She also incorrectly relates that Concepcion became Abbess of the Convent before it moved to Benicia. Mother Mary was the superior of the Dominican Sisters all of Concepcion's life. A black and white portrait of melancholy Sister Concha ends Forbes' account.

Mrs. Forbes added another new item to the Concepcion legend: "... [she] carried as a riding whip a fresh twig of the Mission Grapevine." Also, "The girl planted the twig, and like the broad-spreading, gentle influence of the pious sister, the grapevine thrived and spread its sweeping branches, until today it is one of the largest single grapevines in the world."

This tale of the miraculous grapevine may have been inspired by the massive Mission Grapevine, now dead, of Carpenteria. Its trunk grew as thick as a tree and the vine covered several acres.

Hildegard Hawthorne, in *California Missions: Their Romance and Reality*, included the tale, "Turn to Gertrude Atherton or to Bret Harte for its quality of dream and sorrow, of everlasting faithfulness and unrequited patience." Bret Harte's influence comes through: "She waited until 1842 before she heard what happened. Her living romance had lasted some six weeks. Her troth to the dead thirty-five years."¹⁵

Children's books are not immune from the legend. *The Other San Francisco* by David Selvin emphasizes the role of non-Europeans to California culture. In the brief account, Nikolai Rezanov is the ship's "commander," as well as "...a chamberlain of the Czar of Russia and an agent of the Russian American Fur company based in Alaska." The ending comes straight from the Harte version and Rezanov's destination has changed:

"For years Concepcion awaited his return, but no word came. Finally she entered a convent, only to discover many years later that her fiance had died on his way to Moscow. As writer Bret Harte told of the romance, she learned of her beloved's death from an English traveler who inquired, unaware of Concepcion's identity, whether Rezanov's sweetheart yet lived. A hush fell over the dinner table; then from under a nun's white hood came the words softly, 'Senor, pardon, she died, too.'"¹⁶

In his final chapter, "Some Thoughts on Further Reading," Selvin suggested other literature rather than history books as the entry point for young scholars. "Fiction is often a painless way to start. Gertrude Atherton and Bret Harte, among others..." From the section quoted it is clear that he considered Harte the most reliable source, since the final sentence is the closing line of the poem.

Robert Kirsch and William S. Murphy authored *West of the West: The Story of California from the Conquistadors to the Great Earthquake, as described by the Men and Women Who Were There*. In this retelling of the legend, Dr. Langsdorff has had a career change and is now:

"...a Russian engineer who left an account of his visit, arrived in San Francisco on April 5, 1806. He was accompanied by Nikolai Rezanov, an official of the Russian American Fur Company....[After Rezanov's departure] no one bothered to write to Concepcion. She moved to Santa Barbara, and as legend says, maintained a lonely vigil, gazing seaward from a rocky point that bears her name, and where numerous vessels, including a squadron of United States Navy destroyers, have run aground in the fog that drapes itself shroud-like along the coast. Concepcion was still waiting for her lover to return thirty-five years later when Sir George Simpson arrived at Santa Barbara."¹⁷

Point Concepcion, as history details, was named by Vizcanio on December 8, 1602, the feast day of Purisima Concepcion in the calendar of the Roman Catholic Church. This is an important day in the church calendar and may have been the basis for part of Senorita Argüello's name as well as for the naming of a famous coastal landmark.

Eugene Block's *The Immortal San Franciscans for Whom the Streets Were Named* is a prime example of a truly confused and melodramatic account.¹⁸ Block places "...Argüello Boulevard in the city's Western Addition..." when it is in the Richmond District. The street was named for Luis Argüello, writes Block, when it was actually named for Jose Dario Argüello, the patriarch of the family.¹⁹ Concepcion becomes Luis' Argüello's daughter instead of his sister. In purple prose reminiscent of Forbes, Block has:

"...the Russian master at the bridge returning the kisses she was blowing from the shore. Then the interminable wait—a wait that would end only at the grave. Rezanov had promised to write from every port he touched. No word came. A month, two months slipped by and then a year. Concepcion was inconsolable. With the arrival of every ship, she was at the shoreline, frantically awaiting the first seaman to come ashore. Eagerly she would ask for the letter that was not there. Two years passed and more. The

girl, the suspense unbearable, feared disaster, yet she was certain that in this event some news of shipwreck would have come. Still she never lost faith in the man she loved... She wondered to the day of her death why he had never written to her."²⁰

Block's story also spoke of "Sister Concepcion" rather than Sister Maria Dominica, and he had Sir George Simpson

Concepcion in which he claimed that she spent the next fifty years as a trembling, wasted figure, in perpetual mourning for her lost Russian lover. In reality, she led a long and full life, devoting herself to caring for the homeless and hungry, becoming something of an early-day Mother Teresa. Known as *La Beta*, "the Blessed One," those who knew Dona Concepcion in her latter days said she was a jolly soul, spreading laughter and good cheer wherever she went."²¹



Nikolai Petrovich Rezanov, Official Portrait.

delivering the fateful news at "Yerba Buena."

The assumption that letters could be routinely delivered to California is not explained. The *JUNO* had been allowed to enter and leave because it was under diplomatic immunity while carrying Chamberlain Rezanov. The letter that Baranov wrote to Commandant Argüello in 1807 (a copy of which awaits publication) was probably delivered (if it got through) by a friendly Pomo or Miwok since any foreigner found by the authorities was subject to arrest and deportation.

The most recent retelling of the story has been in a vignette by Dr. Jim Rawls on his radio show (KNBR 68), and incorporated in the book *Dr. History's Whiz-Bang: Favorite Stories of California's Past*. In "A Presidio Love Story" Rawls gives a basic run-down of the facts. He sets the record straight and separates history from legend:

"Bret Harte wrote a romantic poem about Dona



Lillie V. O'Ryan's painting, "Concha Arguello" for the Spinner's Book of Fiction.

Gertrude Atherton's Fictionalized Adaptations

Atherton left a large body of literature that can be termed California Romantic. This is particularly true of the novel *Rezanov*. It concentrates more on the setting than the characters. Where the incident derives from history, Atherton attempts to include facts, but in later writing fact gives way to fiction. Unfortunately, her novel has been used as a reference for supposedly non-fiction works.

In her autobiography, Atherton tells about the beginnings of her book. She had been given a letter of introduction to the De la Guerra family by a friend in Monterey. The family home is a graceful three-sided mansion that is currently being restored by the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation. Atherton at the time "...had the vague outlines of a novel in mind, whose scene was Santa Barbara, and more particularly Casa Grande."²² Delfina De la Guerra persuaded her mother to permit Atherton to stay as a

lodger.

"Delfina led us to a room at the extreme end of one of the wings. It was a large airy room, cleaner and better furnished than any that had been our lot hitherto, but that was a mere nothing beside the information that it had once been occupied by Concepcion (Concha) Argüello, heroine of the famous love story of Old California.... It was years before I wrote *Rezanov* but it was always in the back of my mind. The result of those weeks in Santa Barbara was *The Doomswoman...*"²³

James Phelan helped Atherton in the writing of *Rezanov* by sending:

"...librarian-poet Ina Coolbrith to uncover what she could on the subject; the result was typed and sent to Mrs. Atherton. She thanked him [Phelan] with characteristic formality, masking genuine emotion: "I am indeed a thousand time obliged for the papers...it was most good of you to take all the trouble and I shall not forget it. I am very anxious to write a psychological rather than a narrative novel about Concepcion Argüello, but of course the more facts and color the better."²⁴

Before she wrote the full length book, she used Concepcion in a short story "The Head of a Priest" which was included in *The Splendid Idle Forties/Stories of Old California*.²⁵ It was an enlarged and revised edition of the original volume *Before the Gringo Came* (1894).

In this tale, Concepcion is the Lady Superior of a convent that was built for her in Monterey. She must deal with high-spirited girls who flirt with the young men outside the walls. One of them, Pilar, falls in love with a priest and brings on a crisis when she tells him. At this point, Concepcion leaves the story and the action centers on Pilar. The spurned girl is confined in a cave in the mountains for her forbidden love. The rest of the story reads like an Edgar Allan Poe tale of terror and revenge, and has absolutely no basis in fact.

Rezanov was printed in 1906, the centennial of Rezanov's visit. The book included several water color illustrations. There is no indication that the timing was planned for issuing the book, but it was certainly fortuitous.

Fortunately, Atherton's publisher was in the East, for the 1906 earthquake brought havoc to San Francisco businesses. Both the earthquake and the fire loomed large in the later history of the novel and provided Atherton an opportunity to assist her friend and colleague, Ina Coolbrith. The latter lost her home and all her papers during the catastrophe.

Coolbrith, as poet laureate of California, paid tribute to the famous romance in *From Russian Hill, San Francisco*.²⁷ This

work implies that this neighborhood was named for some of *JUNO'S* sailors that were buried there. In fact, it was named for a group of Russian immigrants. None of the *JUNO'S* crew is buried in San Francisco. A friendly article on Coolbrith and this poem was written by Edward O'Day.²⁸

The Spinner Club of San Francisco, ladies with a strong interest in the humanities, and of which Coolbrith and Atherton were both associate members, decided to publish a collection of donated works, the proceeds of which would assist Coolbrith in rebuilding her life after the earthquake. Priscilla Oaks recorded the history of this project in the 1979 reprint of *The Spinner's Book of Fiction*.²⁹

The lead story in this book was "Concha Arguello, Sister Dominica" by Gertrude Atherton. It told the story of Concepcion after Rezanov's departure. It is illustrated by an oval oil painting by Lillie V. O'Ryan. The likeness is imagined, for no portrait of Concepcion is known to exist except in a group, probably a daguerreotype. The author has not been able to locate this likeness. A copy of O'Ryan's oil is in the collection of Mission Santa Barbara.

This new story of Concepcion's life proved useful later. Only 372 copies of the Spinner's Club compilation were printed and today are rare collectors' items. Published by Paul Elder, it also contained works by Mary Austin, Jack London, Frank Norris and twelve other literary luminaries.

Gertrude Atherton never considered *Rezanov* a major work. Biographer Charlotte S. McClure classified it as one of the "California Potboilers."³⁰ It did not receive critical acclaim as some of her other books did, but its influence continues to this day. In 1909, Atherton wrote an article "Nickolai Petrovich Rezanov" for the *North American Review*. It was a scholarly paper that makes clear that Atherton was aware that Concepcion had not waited for Rezanov thirty-five years.

Bret Harte, in his charming poem "Concepcion Argüello" uses this legend, for the sake of picturesqueness, no doubt; for the truth must have been known in California within five years at least of Rezanov's death; certainly after the Russians established themselves at Ft. Ross on the northern coast.³¹

The only major error in the paper comes when Atherton promotes Concepcion to the rank of Mother Superior of the Dominican Convent.

The title *Before the Gringo Came* was recycled in 1915 when *Rezanov* was teamed with *The Doomswoman* and reprinted by Frederick A. Stokes Company. This was only the first of many confusions that followed the story of the famous romance.

In 1915, as World War raged in Europe, San Francisco

was celebrating its rebirth from the earthquake and fire by hosting the Panama-Pacific Exposition. The New York Times reviewer noted the conjunction as he wrote, "Both *Rezanov* and *The Doomswoman* are worth reading for their own sakes, but are peculiarly valuable as vivid and picturesque re-creations of a lost Arcadia."³² The only complaint in the review was that "The author apparently became fascinated with the facts that were a stranger to fiction, and then could not resist the temptation to put them all in." He concluded by writing that her California novels:

"...form such a social and historical record as no other section of the country can boast; a record of beauty and adventure and splendid achievement unparalleled in any other country in the world. Mrs. Atherton deserves well of her countrymen, not only as a novelist, but as a patriot."³³

Four years later *Rezanov* was again reprinted, this time by Boni and Liveright as part of the *Modern Library Series*. The introduction by William Marion Reedy read in part "There are few books of American origin that resist so well the passing years. . . . *Rezanov* is a classic or I miss my guess."³⁴

Preserving the Site and Exploiting the Legend

One of the first efforts to preserve the actual site of the famous meeting of Concepcion and Rezanov was made on November 24, 1913. A bronze tablet was placed on the wall of the Officer's Club at the Presidio under the auspices of the California Historical Landmarks League. John F. David gave the address that he later printed in *California Romantic and Resourceful: A Plea for the Collection, Preservation and Diffusion of Information Relating to Pacific Coast History*.

"When we think of the love stories that have survived the ages, Alexander and Thais, Pericles and Aspasia, Antony and Cleopatra, and all the rest of them—some of them a narrative unfit to handle with tongs—shall we let this local story die? Shall not America furnish a newer and purer standard? If to such a standard Massachusetts is to contribute the Courtship of Miles Standish, may not California contribute the Courtship of Rezanov? . . . Gertrude Atherton has given us the novel and Bret Harte has sung the poem founded upon it."³⁵

The old Commandancia building was incorporated into the Presidio Officers Club as the west wing. In 1934 the building was restored and modernized with handsome results. On September 6, it was rededicated with ceremonies that included ". . . the recounting of the historic tale of love by Gertrude Atherton, the famous California author."³⁶

Today a portion of the original adobe wall of the Commandancia can still be seen through a display window in the Moraga Room.

Early in 1934, Frederick A. Stokes company became concerned about the copyright to *Rezanov*. They suggested to Atherton that the story might be expanded to permit a new copyright.

"I wonder if you might not consider adding a chapter or two, bringing the story back to Dona Concha and telling the writer (sic) what became of her. I think this would strengthen the popular appeal of the book very much..."³⁷

A week later the update became a necessity when the lapse of copyright was confirmed. Brett Stokes suggested that the material in *The Spinner's Book of Fiction*, which gave the subsequent history of Concepcion, be put into a shape to tie on the end of *Rezanov* for a new printing.³⁸

Paul Elder suggested, when releasing rights for use of the short story, that the title be changed to *Rezanov and Dona Concha*.³⁹

All of the Atherton works on the subject are now in the public domain. The most recent reprinting of *Rezanov* was in 1969.

The Atherton Family Nun

While the issue of copyright was being thrashed out, Atherton's youngest grandchild was finding a role model in Concepcion Argüello. Dominga attended St. Catherine's, the same institution in which her heroine had taught. She wrote to her beloved grandmother:

"Middy Addy,

Mother said you had spoken to her of sending me Concepcion Argüello's renunciation to the world. I should love to have it and I am sure the sisters would be interested too. I suppose you have seen the convent at Benicia and Concepcion's grave."⁴⁰

During 1931 Dominga found her own vocation. She became a Sister in the same convent as Concepcion. She professed her first vows in 1932. Her name Mary Dominga is similar to Concepcion's official name of Mary Dominica which is carved on her tombstone. Biographer Emily Leider wrote:

"Dominga inspired her grandmother to write books the church would allow her to read... When she lived as sister Mary Dominga at St. Dominic's convent in Benicia, she delighted in the link with Concepcion...whose story Gertrude told in *Rezanov*."⁴¹

Dominga never took her second vow. She left because of illness in 1935 and died of a brain tumor in 1946. Dominga Atherton Russell is buried in Benicia, in the Sister's Plot of St. Dominic's Cemetery not far from the grave of Concepcion Argüello. While there is no direct evidence that Dominga influenced her grandmother to merge her previous works into *Rezanov and Dona Concha* it would seem to be a probable factor.

Gertrude Atherton wrote three non-fiction books about California and San Francisco history. In the 1927 edition of *California: An Intimate History* she tried to stick to the facts when talking of Concepcion and Rezanov, but she repeats material that should have been corrected. Don Jose Argüello is placed in command in Monterey instead of Commandant De la Guerra. Rezanov daydreams a line of onion shaped domes on the hills of San Francisco. Concha runs a school for the daughters of the aristocracy in Monterey instead of at St. Catherine's Academy. Concepcion becomes Mother Superior of the convent. The chapter sounds like a summary of *Rezanov and Dona Concha*.⁴²

In 1940, Atherton wrote the foreword to Mrs. Fremont Older's *Love Stories of Old California*. She credits Mrs. Older's "uncommon gift for patient research," and "We have no more thorough scholar and no more valuable contributor to Californiana than Mrs. Fremont Older."⁴³

Mrs. Older's chapter "Rezanov and California's First Nun 1806" is fiction from beginning to end. Only the barest outline of facts can be seen. In paying tribute to her primary sources she calls Atherton's work "...the splendid novel *Rezanov*" and quotes the last two stanzas of Bret Harte's poem.⁴⁴

In 1945, Atherton produced yet another non-fiction book called *Golden Gate Country*.⁴⁵ The author brushes over the much repeated story of Concepcion and the Russian who came seeking trade and left with Concepcion's hand. "It is beyond the scope of this book to tell in detail the story of that romance. I have set it forth at length in my novel *Rezanov*." This is the first time the author has seen a non-fiction book refer to a novel as a reliable source of information!

The referral to the novel comes after a detailed account of Concepcion's use of her eyelashes to flirt with the young men. There is also a detailed description of her education and home life. I have not found any source for this coquettishness.

Later Atherton writes as fact that Otto von Kotzebue had brought confirmation of Rezanov's death in 1816. It was that time that Concepcion had become a member of the Third Order Secular of the Franciscans. Atherton also writes that Rezanov was buried under an altar-shaped stone. This had been true many years earlier, but his grave had been

redecorated with a large monument before the turn of the century.

In 1946, Atherton's *My San Francisco: A Wayward Biography* came out. The first chapter was titled "If." It details the Rezanov-Argüello story one more time. Scenes from fiction, such as a climb to the top of Mt. Tamalpais to view the Bay are included. But there is no record to support these lovely pictures. It is most unlikely that Rezanov's hosts would have let him wander the country at will collecting military intelligence. The telling ends that Rezinov died at Krasnoyarsk "...and Concha Argüello became the first nun in California."⁴⁶

CONCLUSION

The story of Nikolai Rezanov and Concepcion Argüello has universal appeal. It has all the components of a fairy tale, with Rezanov as Prince Charming, and a tragic ending.

Concepcion is a remarkable woman in that she became a free agent and lived her life much as she chose at a time when women had few options. In spite of her independent way of life, she became a pillar to her community and her church.

Her life spans three major phases of California's 19th Century history, from Spanish Colony to Mexican Province to admission as one of the United States. Her fidelity to Rezanov has been exaggerated in the legend, but the fact remains, she refused any other man.

The Rezanov of history was a man of vision and ability who could have changed the map of several Pacific nations. He reached out for new lands in America for himself and his country. In the reaching he found a woman who was his equal. He is a model for the motto: "Duty, Honor, Country."

Only Rebecca Lawrence Lee's *Concha, My Dancing Saint* details Concepcion's long charitable ministrations after Rezanov sailed with Russia as his destination. She is a model of self-sacrifice and piety. In her work she treated all Californians as equals and set a standard of service that can be followed even today.

Each writer of fiction found a setting and characters that allowed him or her to explore part of the human condition. The appeal of this opportunity is apparently so strong that it draws historians into the same vortex. For scholars, fact should act like a compass that holds to a steady course toward understanding happenings as they really occurred. During the voyage the Siren's song of poetry and fiction tempts the romantic writer to embellish the tale. This must be resisted so that the original authenticity is not lost. Each approach deserves to be considered as a separate journey.

Editor's note: There are a number of other literary works based on the legend of Concha Argüello which Iverson has included in a longer work which she hopes to publish as a book. Of these, mention should be made of the better known:

Richard Edward White, a poet who immigrated to California from Dublin, Ireland in 1870, authored several poems using mission legends as themes. One, "The Little Dancing Saint" was printed several times, and one stanza was carved in stone as part of the memorial to Sister Dominica Argüello in Benicia. A number of other authors used the legend of Concha's childhood dance before a statue of the Virgin Mary at Mission Dolores as fact. In 1966, Rebecca Lawrence Lee's book, My Little Dancing Saint, appeared, largely fictional, which she freely admitted, while taking part in the perpetuation of the myth.

Hector Chevigny, an American who has earned the reputation as a reliable authority on Russian history, in 1965 had published Lost Empire: The Life and Adventures of Nikolai Rezanov, a fictionalized biography, of which New York Times reviewer John Cournos wrote, "History blended with romance with the skill of a novelist; yet the abiding impression is that the truth has not been violated."

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**Excerpts from
CONCEPCION DE ARGUELLO
(Presldio De San Francsco, 1806)**

BRET HARTE



I

Looking seaward, o'er the sandhills stands the fortress, old and quaint.
By the San Franciscan friars lifted to their patron saint,-
Sponsor to that wondrous city, now apostate to the creed,
On whose youthful walls the Padre saw the angel's golden reed;
All its trophies long since scattered, all its blazon brushed away;
And the flag that flys above it but a triumph of today.
Never scar of seige or battle challenges the wandering eye,-
Never breach of warlike onset holds the curious passer-by;
Only one sweet human fancy interweaves its threads of gold
With the plain and homespun present, and a love that ne'er grows old:

II

Count von Resanoff, the Russian, envoy of the mighty Czar,
Stood beside the deep embrasures where the brazen cannon are;
He with grave provincial magnates long had held serene debate
On the Treaty of Alliance and the high affairs of state;
He from grave provincial magnates oft had turned to walk apart
With the Commandante's daughter on the questions of the heart,
Until points of gravest import yielded slowly one by one,
And by Love was consummated what Diplomacy begun;
Till besides the deep embrasures, where the brazen cannon are,
He received the twofold contract for approval of the Czar;
Till beside the brazen cannon the betrothed bade adieu,
And, from sallyport and gateway, north the Russian eagles flew.

III

Long beside the deep embrasures, where the brazen cannon are,
Did they wait the promised bridegroom and the answer of the Czar;
Day by day on wall and bastion beat the hollow, empty breeze,
Day by day the sunlight glittered on the vacant, smiling seas;
Week by week the near hills whitened in their dusty leather cloaks,
Week by week the far hills darkened from the fringing plain of oaks;
Till the rains came, and far-breaking, on the fierce southwestern tost
Dashed the whole long coast with color, and then vanished and were lost.
So each year the seasons shifted,- wet and warm and drear and dry;
Half a year of clouds and flowers.- half a year of dust and sky.
Still it brought no ship nor message,-brought no tidings, ill or meet,
For the statesmanlike Commander, for the daughter fair and sweet.
Yet she heard the varying message, voiceless to all ears beside:

"He will come," the flowers whispered; "Come no more," the dry hills sighed.

Still she found him with the waters lifted by the morning breeze,
Still she lost him with the folding of the great white-tented seas;
Until hollows chased the dimples from her cheeks of olive brown,
And at times the swift shy moisture dragged the long sweet lashes down.
....Then the grim Commander, pacing where the brazen cannon are,
Comforted the maid with proverbs,-wisdom gathered from afar;
....And on "Concha," "Conchitita," and "Conchita" he would dwell
With the fond reiteration which the Spaniard knows so well.
So with proverbs and caresses, half in faith and half in doubt,
Every day some hope was kindled, flickered, faded, and went out.

IV

Yearly, down the hillside sweeping, came the stately cavalcade,
Bringing revel to vaquero, joy and comfort to each maid;
Bringing days of formal visit, social feast and rustic sport;
Of bull-baiting on the plaza, of love-making in the court.
Vainly then at Concha's lattice, vainly as the idle wind,
Rose the thin high Spanish tenor that bespoke the youth too kind;
Vainly, leaning from their saddles, caballeros, bold and fleet,
Plucked for her the buried chicken from beneath their mustang's feet;
So in vain the barren hillsides with their gay serapes blazed,
Blazed and vanished in the dust-cloud that their flying hoofs had made.

V

.... Forty years on wall and bastion swept the hollow idle breeze,
Since the Russian eagle fluttered from the California seas;
....And the citadel was lighted, and the hall was gayly drest,
All to honor Sir George Simpson, famous traveler and guest.
....Till, the formal speeches ended, and amidst the laugh and wine,
Someone spoke of Concha's lover.- heedless of the warning sign.

Quickly then said Sir George Simpson, "Speak no ill of him I pray,-
He is dead. He died, poor fellow, forty years ago this day.
"Died while speeding home to Russia, falling from a fractious horse.
Left a sweetheart, too, they tell me. Married, I suppose, of course!
"Lives she yet?" A deathlike silence fell on banquet, guests and hall.
And a trembling figure rising fixed the awestruck gaze of all.
Two black eyes in darkened orbits gleamed beneath the nun's white hood;
Black serge hid the wasted figure, bowed and stricken where it stood.
"Lives she yet?" Sir George repeated. All were hushed as Concha drew
Closer yet her nun's attire. "Senor, pardon, she died too!"

Pacific Grove: California's Last Dry Town

And has the "wet" town, as feared, become ridden with crime and filth?

By Wendy Root

Throughout the country, the 1960s were a decade of demonstration, going against traditions and protesting imposition of moral values. Yet even in the late 1960s citizens of Pacific Grove accepted and were proud of the fact that there was no alcohol served in their town. They believed that it would always be that way. Eventually economic pressures changed this situation. Restaurants and hotels in Pacific Grove could no longer compete with places on the surrounding Monterey Peninsula where alcohol was served. Even though the town had been "dry" for 94 years, the conflict between the Methodist Church and the businesses escalated and the time came for going against traditions in the small hometown of Pacific Grove.

In order to fully understand the controversy surrounding the use of alcohol in Pacific Grove one must understand the history of the 'last hometown'. In 1873 Rev. J. W. Ross and his wife moved to the piney forest outside of Monterey hoping to improve their health; after only a few months both seemed to be cured of their illnesses. Rev. Ross returned to his home in the East and brought back his brother and sister in-law whose complaints also seemed to disappear miraculously after a short time.

One of the many visitors whom the Rosses entertained at their home was Methodist Bishop J. Peck. Bishop Peck was president of the San Francisco based Retreat Association which planned retreats for Christians wishing to become closer to God. He decided that the area surrounding Rev. Ross's home would be the perfect area for a Christian

In May 1995, as a junior at Pacific Grove High School, Wendy Root won the Conference of California Historical Societies' award at the state History Day in California finals competition in Sacramento. The competition, sponsored by the Constitutional Rights Foundation in cooperation with the State Department of Education, is an annual event open to students grades 6-12. In 1995, the theme students were asked to address was "Conflict and Compromise in History." State winners progress to national level competition.

Seaside Resort.¹

On June 1, 1875, at the Howard Street Methodist Episcopal Church in San Francisco, a group of people held the first meeting of the Pacific Grove Retreat Association. It was there that Pacific Grove was decided upon for the name of the retreat. Many other concerns were also decided on at this meeting such as where the retreat would get its supply of fresh water, if it would have any connections with railroad and steamboat companies, and the sizes and prices of the lots that would be sold.²

The Pacific Grove Retreat Association selected this spot when a wilderness (sic) and had it set apart as a place where Christian and moral people could consort with their families, for health and recreation, and hold conventions and assemblies for the promotion of intellectual, moral and religious enterprises.³

The summer retreat was to be for Methodists wishing to become closer to God by living and worshipping in the beautiful forest that He had created. Because of this Christian foundation, some rather strict rules were laid out as to what behaviors would be allowed on the grounds. The Blue Laws, also known as the "Rules by the Founding Fathers," prohibited such activities as having baggage delivered on the grounds on Sundays, staying out past 10:30 PM, smoking on platforms or near public buildings, speaking with profane language, walking through the grounds wearing only a bathing suit, riding on horseback through the grounds at any speed faster than a walk, and especially the drinking of liquor. For example:

INTOXICANTS-The buying, selling, or giving away of any and all intoxicants - spirituous liquors, wine, beer, or cider - are strictly prohibited on any public or private property within one mile of the center of the original survey of the Retreat and Directors hereby request all well disposed persons to promptly notify the superintendent of any



Lover's Point, about 1900. Glass bottom boat to the left, the Lookout in the center and bathhouse to the right. The fence is next to the railroad tracks and runs parallel to Ocean View Blvd. All photographs are courtesy of the Heritage Society of Pacific Grove.

violations of this rule.⁴

The deeds to all properties sold within the limits of Pacific Grove also carried a clause prohibiting the sale of liquor on all property sold. The clause read:

Neither the party or parties of the second part, nor their heirs, executors, administrators or assigns, nor any other person or persons occupying said land or premises or any part thereof, under them, or any of them, shall at any time permit any species of gambling; nor manufacture, or sell, or give away, or exchange or trade, or deal with in any way, on said premises or any part thereof, any spirituous, vinous or other intoxicating liquors.⁵

Even though many activities like drinking and gambling were prohibited in the small Methodist retreat, there were many other activities in which to participate.

"Healthful and innocent amusements, athletic exercises - boating, riding, fishing, exercises on croquet grounds in various parts of the Grove, bicycling, bathing, walking in the woods, strolling on the beaches, lawn tennis, baseball, etc. are not prohibited by us to say nothing of roller skating."⁶

On June 30, 1879, Pacific Grove Retreat became the Chautauqua-by-the-Sea. (The chautauqua movement started as camp meetings aimed at the education of adults in intel-

lectual matters concerning their country.⁷

In 1881 Chautauqua Hall, also known as the old Chapel or Assembly Hall, was built in Pacific Grove, and all but one summer meeting was held there until 1889. The hall could hold 500 people in the summer and was used as a store house for tents in the winter. Speakers came from all over the world to lecture at what had quickly become a cultural center, and many people would come to the Pacific Grove Retreat to get involved in the serious courses and lectures. The Feast of Lanterns signified the closing of each Chautauqua until the next summer. The last Chautauqua-by-the-Sea Assembly was in 1926.⁸

Pacific Grove Retreat was a general law town from 1889 until 1927 when thirteen people were elected to write a charter. Later in 1927 the charter was approved by both the California Legislature and the voters of the Pacific Grove Retreat. The Retreat then was incorporated as the City of Pacific Grove.⁹

As a city the laws of the state and country affected Pacific Grove, and the 18th amendment of the U.S. Constitution fit right into Pacific Grove's moral tradition. The amendment prohibited "the manufacture, sale, or transportation of intoxicating liquors"¹⁰ throughout the country until its repeal in 1933. As Pacific Grove grew larger, many of the old Methodist "blue" laws and traditions disappeared, but Pacific Grove continued to prohibit alcohol within its city limits because of the religious background of the city. For the businesses of Pacific Grove this created a problem.

The Monterey Bay has long been an area that is economically dependent on tourism. When people go on vacation a common goal is to be able to relax, perhaps with a

glass of wine at dinner. Because Pacific Grove did not allow intoxicating liquor of any kind to be sold anywhere inside the city, tourists chose to eat at restaurants in cities surrounding the small 'dry' town. Even in 1940 residents of Pacific Grove would drive to Santa Cruz or Watsonville in order to have a glass of wine with dinner.¹¹

Often visitors would not want to travel back to their hotels after dinner, so they chose to stay at hotels in the towns where they ate. This caused the hotels in the cities surrounding Pacific Grove to fill up sooner than those in the "dry" town. Hotels in competition with those in Pacific Grove could also use Pacific Grove's "dry" status against them in advertising. "The Retreat is an ideal location but the lack of entertainment and wine are not conducive to the enjoyment and freedom offered by our Del Monte".¹²

The ElCarmelo Hotel, circa 1890, the first true hotel in Pacific Grove opened in 1887 on Lighthouse Avenue. The name became Pacific Grove Hotel about 1910 to avoid confusion with Carmel. It was taken down in 1918.



Mammoth Livery Stable about 1890, capacity 95 horses. Carriage tours for 17 Mile Drive, Carmel Mission and Point Lobos could be booked here. The stable burned in 1909 in a fire of suspicious origin.

Residents of Pacific Grove "at that time realized that they were losing money to Monterey" because of the ban on liquor sales.¹³ Groups of people who believed that liquor should be legal in Pacific Grove would gather at neighborhood homes to explain to their neighbors what the ordinance allowing liquor would provide for and explain that alcohol would not harm their town. Those groups "campaigned for it because hotels and restaurants [in Pacific Grove] were filling up after Monterey's were."¹⁴ Although there was not one single person who stood out in the fight to legalize liquor, there were many leaders from the business community who lobbied heavily to get rid of the restrictions on alcohol. The merchants of Pacific Grove felt that they were at a great disadvantage with their competition in Monterey.¹⁵

Pacific Grove had been "dry" for so long many believed it would never allow liquor. "There are no bars, liquor stores, nor cocktail lounges in Pacific Grove and there may never be any. The original deed restrictions provided for a town whose lips would never touch liquor."¹⁶ Besides this long standing tradition of abstinence many citizens were "worried about bringing in crime, bringing in a bad influence on young people and everything."¹⁷

The most prominent figure identified in keeping Pacific Grove "dry" for so long was Mrs. Elmarie Dyke. Mrs. Dyke had moved to Pacific Grove with her family in 1909. She had graduated from Pacific Grove High School and eventually became a teacher in Pacific Grove. She was an extremely active citizen in the small town community, founding the first Chamber of Commerce along with becoming the second woman to serve on the Pacific Grove City Council. Among a long list of accomplishments, Mrs. Dyke also reinstated the Feast of Lanterns, which she produced and coordinated from 1963 until 1980. Mrs. Dyke strongly believed in preservation and one of the only two battles that she lost was not keeping alcohol out of Pacific Grove. Mrs. Dyke understood first-hand how devastating alcohol could be, since her husband drank and her brother was an alcoholic.¹⁸

Mrs. Dyke was a member of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, an organization that was begun in the late 1800s by a group of wealthy conservative women whose goal was to reform the character and conduct of the lower classes. The Union sponsored groups for cooking, gardening, better nutrition, promoting school education against alcoholism, political action, and much more.

The WCTU spread throughout the country to every town and even to some foreign lands because of its broad appeal. The organization believed that liquor caused poverty but also that poverty caused men to drink. It wrote textbooks that claimed liquor was a personal poison as well as a poison to the nation.¹⁹ In Pacific Grove the WCTU worked actively long after it had died out in the rest of the country.

It must be remembered that throughout the entire city controversy that "to drink or not to drink was never the question. Rather it was where you buy what you drink".²⁰ Former



Holman's Department store was built on the site of the El Carmelo/Pacific Grove Hotel in 1924.

Mayor Bob Quinn stated, "Pacific Grove residents didn't drink any less than their neighbors (there were just as many liquor bottles in the trash in Pacific Grove, for example, the

people just couldn't buy it here)."²¹ Citizens of Pacific Grove could easily leave the city to buy liquor at any of the liquor stores built conspicuously around the city limits.

On November 5, 1968, the people of Pacific Grove voted in a mandate asking if the old laws prohibiting the sale of liquor in Pacific Grove should be repealed. The measure passed by 1,114 votes (3383-2269) allowing the city council to review the old prohibitive ordinance and write up a new one to legalize and regulate the sale of liquor.

On January 5, 1969, the city council passed Ordinance No. 622, providing for the sale of liquor only in those restaurants meeting a long list of requirements. By a vote of 5-2, Vera G. Moffat and Ed Whitaker cast votes of disapproval while the rest of the council, including Mayor Earl D. Grafton, Robert Quinn, James Hughes, Pete M. Dinkel and James Bishop, voted in favor of the ordinance.

On February 5, 1969, during one of the heaviest storms of the year the council unanimously passed Ordinance No. 623 that protected the character of the city and officially made Pacific Grove 'wet' by stating the following:²²

It shall be unlawful, and it is hereby declared to be a misdemeanor, for any person to drink or consume any intoxicating liquor in or on any public park, street, or alley, public property, public parking area, public wharf, public dock, public waterfront or marine life refuge, or any beach within the City; provided that the provisions of this section shall not apply to consummation of intoxicating liquor within the confines of any enclosed building where express permission for the consumption of alcoholic beverages has been granted by the City Council.²³

The ordinance went into effect on March 7, 1969, but not before Mrs. Elmarie Dyke got 612 verified signatures of city residents to start a recall by voter initiative vote to be held in April, 1969. Once again the vote reinforced the call for the legalization of liquor. At the time the ordinance passed, Slat's Restaurant, Lovers Point Inn, The Sandpiper, and Seventeen Mile Drive Grocery already had applications for liquor licenses on file with the city.²⁴ Mayor Don Grafton had the first legal drink in the city after the repeal, at what is now the Bathhouse Restaurant.²⁵

Did the legalization of liquor make the anticipated evil change some anticipated on the last hometown in California? Has it hurt the younger generation? Did it cause Pacific Grove to become ridden with crime and filth? Did it change anything at all?

According to the older generation of Pacific Grove residents, the answer to all of those questions is a resounding *no*. They say that "not in any way, shape or form" has liquor hurt the community.²⁶ One resident spoke for the majority

of the community elders in saying, "It didn't make the anticipated [negative] change."²⁷ The common belief is that Pacific Grove is "still the last hometown even though we have liquor."²⁸ Most senior citizens who lived through the whole ordeal felt that liquor has only brought Pacific Grove employment and a "great many good restaurants."²⁹

Today the consumption of alcoholic beverages in public places in Pacific Grove is still restricted to sit down restaurants where food is served. There are no bars, per se, except for those which are part of a restaurant. There are a limited number of package goods stores within the Pacific Grove City limits that sell liquor, and their sales are closely monitored by the Pacific Grove Police Department. The amount of alcoholic beverages consumed at private parties has always been difficult to measure, but for the most part Pacific Grove remains a town of temperance and moderation in its consumption of alcohol.

Both conflict and compromise were part of the entire controversy surrounding the liquor debate in Pacific Grove. This small hometown, split on an issue that could change the fate of the community for better or worse, discovered that change with compromise does not always have to be negative.

End Notes

1. Lucy Neely McLane, *A Piney Paradise by Monterey Bay* 1958. 16-17.
2. "Pacific Grove Retreat Assn Creates City," *Pacific Grove - Pebble Beach Tribune* March 1978: 8.
3. "Feast of Lanterns Tabloid," 30 Oct. 1988, (Pacific Grove Library: Description and Travel File).
4. "The Founding of Pacific Grove," *Pacific Grove Times*, July 21, 1965.
5. "P.G's old deeds were restrictive - and how!," *Pacific Grove - Pebble Beach Tribune* March 1978: 8.
6. "Feast of Lanterns Tabloid," *op. cit.*
7. McLane, *op. cit.*
8. Phoebe W. Hoffman "Chautauqua Hall," *Pacific Grove California, This is Our Town*. The writers Group of Canterbury Woods. 1969. 34.
9. Bonnie Lemmons, "Pacific Grove's Charter gives it some Independence," *Pacific Grove - Pebble Beach Tribune* 15 March 1978.
10. Mary Beth Norton, et al, *A People, A Nation*, 3rd ed. 1990. A-15.
11. Maude Billy, Telephone Interview, Dec. 31, 1994. A resident of Canterbury Woods retirement home and retired as teacher from Pacific Grove Middle School, 1942, told me about her experiences in Pacific Grove when it was a "dry" town.
12. McLane, *op. cit.*, 159.
13. Nadine Annand, Personal Interview, Dec. 29, 1994. Nadine Ammand gave me names of many other people to call, along with her personal feelings about how liquor has affected this town.
14. Richard Stillwell, Telephone Interview, Jan. 4, 1995. A longtime Pacific Grove resident explained the business aspect of the need to allow liquor into the town.
15. Don Gasperson, Telephone Interview, Jan. 5, 1995. Former Fire Chief gave business point of view.
16. "Pacific Grove Proud of its Homes, Churches and Schools," *Monterey Herald* (no date given) Pacific Grove Library, Travel and Description file.
17. Annand, *op. cit.*
18. Nelson "Bill" Hyler, Personal Interview, Jan. 3, 1995. Bill Hyler told about the life of his mother, Elmarie Dyke.
19. Bill Severn, *The End of the Roaring Twenties*. 60-65.
20. John Hallisey, "Pacific Grove is now a 'wet' town," *Monterey Herald*, Feb. 6, 1969. This article was most crucial to my research, providing me with dates and numbers concerning the liquor ordinance. It outlined the order in which events took place.
21. Joe Graziano, "Remembering Mrs. Pacific Grove," *Alta Vista, Monterey Herald*, July 24, 1994. 9. This article was about the life of Elmarie Dyke.
22. Hallisey, *op. cit.*
23. City of Pacific Grove Ordinance No. 623 N.S., Feb. 5, 1969.
24. Hallisey, *op. cit.*
25. Neil Gardner, Telephone Interview, Jan. 5, 1995. The former editor of the Pacific Grove Tribune told me about the conflict between the Methodists and the business community during the liquor controversy.
26. Bob Quinn, Telephone Interview, Jan. 5, 1995. Mr. Quinn, Mayor of Pacific Grove at the time it became "wet," gave me a general overview of what had happened during the change, and how people had felt about events.
27. Connie Callas, Personal Interview, Dec. 29, 1995. A long time active citizen of Pacific Grove explained to me her feelings about how the town has not changed that much, and why people did not want liquor here.
28. Stillwell, *op. cit.*
29. Gardner, *op. cit.*

INVITATION CCHS ANNUAL M LANCASTER, JUN

Our host for the 1996 Annual M
companying schedule of tours, work
is the City of Lancaster Museum/
theme is *Antelope Valley - Herita
Native Americans, Pioneers and A
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In the high desert region of the
Desert, known for clean air and blu
sits in the center of the Antelope Val
it is said, large herds of fleet-footed p
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Announcements have been m
and member organizations. Non-
come to participate in all but b
Registration inquiries may be
Gurba, Museum-Gallery Curator,
6251.

Scenes fr

Tours: Edwards Air Force Base
historical aircraft. Blackbird Airpar
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Local sites: Antelope Valley
Western Hotel, oldest surviving bu
rebuilt to house a museum detailing
ful history.

Workshop: Historic preservat
ies.

Lectures: Famous people of the
from suffragettes to movie actors—
the valley— Mining: where \$68 mi
produced— Natural wonders, such as
ance of the antelope; the Joshua Tree
Desert plants; the San Andreas Faul
Bulge as players in some of Califor
quakes.

And much more!



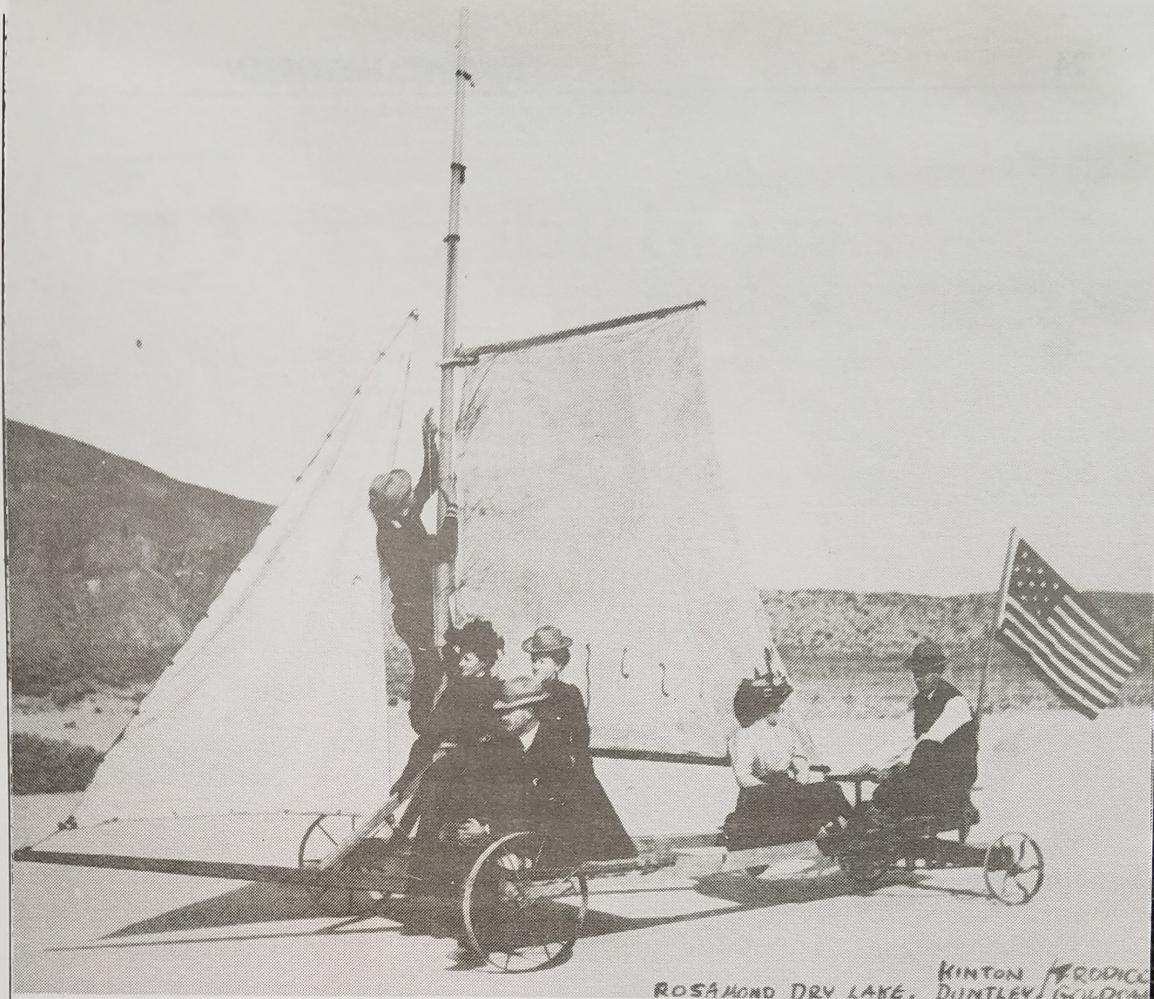
ON TO L MEETING JUNE 20-23

ual Meeting, with its ac-
workshops and lectures,
seum/Art Gallery. The
*Heritage of a Frontier:
And Aerospace Explora-*

of the western Mojave
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Lancaster owes its birth
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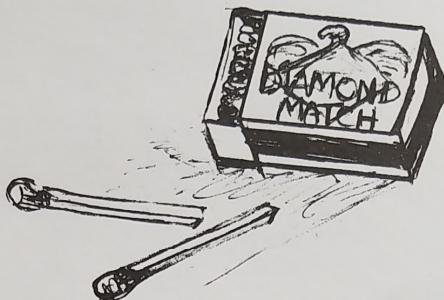
from a Lancaster Album



CLOCKWISE, FROM UPPER
RIGHT: Antelope Valley pioneers
(ca.1905) land-sailing on
Rosamund Dry Lake. Miner Fred
Hamilton at the historic Willow
Springs Mine. Downtown
Lancaster (ca. 1917) as painted by
Frances Cole. The Southern Pacific
Depot (ca. 1900), with the Lancaster
Hotel, since burned. The Old
Gillywn Hotel (ca. 1890) which has
been restored to house the Lancaster
museum. On the left, the second
Lancaster Grammar School, now
gone. Photos courtesy of City of
Lancaster Museum/Art Gallery.

Love Match

Part 2 of a Series



You were introduced to the romance between Jackson F. Howard and Annie Folsom through Howard's letters to the 19 year old employee of the Diamond Match Packing operation in Chico. She had put a slip of paper with her name and address in a match box, and as Howard surmises, she was seeking diversion from the routine of a factory girl, bored with homelife and dreaming of romance. Howard, at age 28, works as a camp cook, but we have learned that his training is in pharmacy which he is forbidden to practice because of a health problem that periodically puts him a hospital. He is very lonely, also dreaming of finding the right girl but disillusioned by having been brushed off by a former sweetheart. We read in his letter of February 27 his sense of bewilderment and sadness that Annie has let several days elapse without answering a letter.

4 March 1910, 9 P.M.

My Dear little friend,

Well, at last I received word from you. Your card came this eve, but no letter of which you speak. It is the first I heard from you since I got your photo card.

Say, Honey, you needn't be ashamed of your "phiz." One thing is sure; you have strong features anyway, but don't you think if you wore high heels it would be more becoming? I do.

(I write this in great haste, as I was up to nearly 11 P.M. last night and want to get some sleep but I promise to write better in the next.)

Another suggestion I would make is not to wear your hair in a braid down your back, as it makes you look too young, and I would admire you more if you looked your full age, but never mind, as you must remember that I wrote you that it isn't beauty I admire so much as intelligence. Don't use so much powder either as it hides your natural complexion.

Gee, I wish I had the time to write you a nice long letter. I don't suppose I will be here very long as the work is positively too much for one. We have now 68 regulars besides the four bosses for whom I must cook entirely separate & the very best I can do is to put in 17-18 hours every day.

By the way, did you get my Valentine card? It was the only one I could send so as to show you the postmark, as the law forbids sending them through the mail without an envelope. I brought it with me from the city.

Golly, I wish I had that letter you sent me & hope no one else gets it. How is your good old mother? I hope she is well. Has she gray hair? My poor dear old mother's is snow white, and golly, how I do admire them. The poor old soul didn't like them until she became a grandmother of a pair of twins, my oldest sister's, and after that she was proud of them (hair and twins both).

Just think of it, I haven't smoked for a week, so you must know I must have been quite sick, but am feeling a lot better, only I have a dreadful humming in my left ear nearly all the time & and when I go to bed at night. I wish I could get to see a Dr.

How is that little friend of ours; my regards, but please, don't let her read my letters, or anyone else for that matter, except your mother. No one has ever seen a word of your letters to me. Oh, yes, I forgot to ask you—are you going to the fight next 4th of July? I hope to go.

Well, By-By, Honey, I hope to hear from you soon and don't forget about the high heels, etc. HaHa! Goodnight, happy dreams & I remain Most sincerely yours.

Jack F. H.

Camp Seco, California

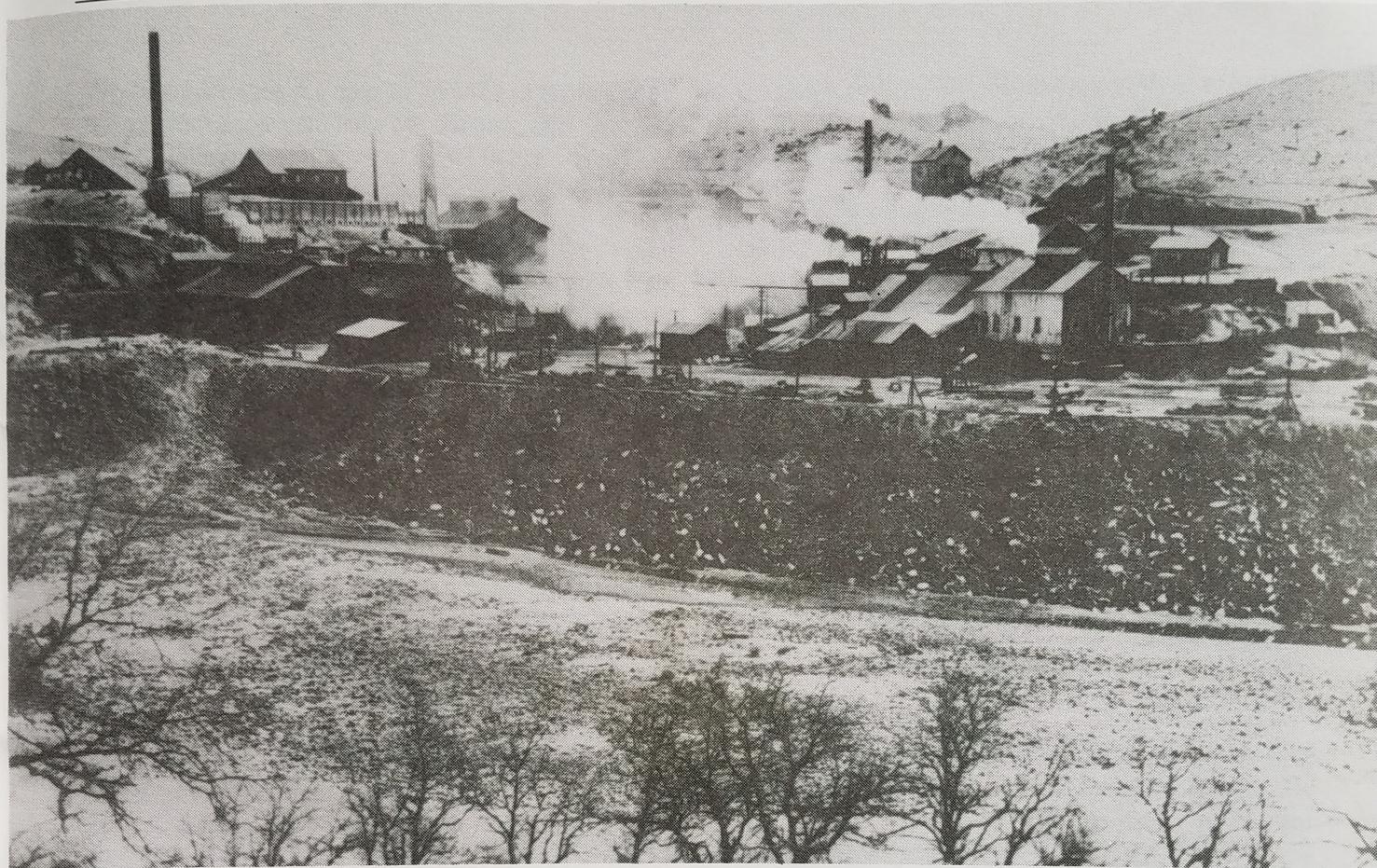
Wednesday, March 9

My dear little Honey,

Your of the 7th inst. reached me this morning, but no news of the 8 or 9 page letter, but I guess it must have been with a lot of mail that was destroyed by fire about a week ago at Valley Springs, the R.R. post office for this place. Please answer again, as I know you have saved my letter tied with baby blue ribbon. Ha!

Say Honey, I feel fine tonight, & considering the heavy day's work I did, it is very unusual. I am going to Stockton Fri. P.M. and will be back Saturday evening. I am just going over to consult a dentist, as I must have something done to my teeth. After a seige of pneumonia just a year ago (was in the Sister's Hospital in Reno from Jan. 3rd to 27th) I was salivated. The Dr. gave me a heavy dose of calomel after which I went to dinner and ate a big meal of corned beef and cabbage. The meat was very salty and besides I had put on a lot of strong vinegar — But enough of my misfortunes.

I wish you could drop down to Stockton Saturday so I could show myself to you. I appreciate your kind consider-



Penn Mine and Smelter at Campo Seco, ca. 1910. Courtesy Calaveras County Historical Society

ation for me & your kindly advising me to leave this place. But the madam here is such a very nice lady, that I would hardly like to walk out. If it was only the old man! Golly I wouldn't be here now. Gee, he does get on some horrible busters. He is on one tonight in fact all this P.M., as is also the waitress. I ordered him out of my kitchen this evening at supper, & also told the waitress if I see her taking another drop of wine I would fire her & you bet I will.

I sent for a new dishwasher & and expect her any day now. I tell you I have full swing in this place. I don't like to blow for myself, but the chief super told the boss last Saturday I was the best cook he has had here in over two years since he is superintendent. That's going some.

The waitress is a corker. She is pure Irish and when she gets a souser on, she can make a person nearly burst laughing, that is if it takes effect that way. But crowd her and there is Heaven to pay. I am the first cook on this job with her whom she could not run a sandy on & and it just makes her furious, as the madam told her in my presence, that she has to do as I say or take the consequences. This P.M. she started to take a cold water foot bath on the back porch & and some how she and wash tub got all tangled up & and both went overboard, right into a mud hole about a foot deep with mud. She took it all as a joke and said she didn't

mind at all, just so as I had a good laugh. Can you beat it? She is about 40 years old and has been here 7 months.

So you want me to go off to the tall timber to write you a long letter? Where will I get the tall timber around here, "Honey". You surely have a poor opinion of a smelter. The smoke from our smelter kills all growth within 25 to 20 miles. All you can see from here is nothing but parched ground & dead trees. But never mind, my dear little Honey, I will write you another long letter some day.

How is that fat little friend of mine getting along? Say, never let that "green eyed" monster get the best of you, my dear little girl. I got jealous once a long time ago, and after I came to myself again, I took a solemn vow never to let myself get that way again. I wouldn't let anyone make me show a sign of jealousy no matter how badly I was stung. The time I speak of was the time I was turned down by the party I wrote to you about.

So blue is your favorite color? How strange, it is mine also, as well as violets and carnations. Thanks for the violets, I will put them with the other ones. So you just put them in to scent the letter, did you? HaHa! Go tell that to the mate but don't let the skipper hear you.

So you don't think you will go to the big fight; that is too bad. Now, be a sport and don't deny me the pleasure—

I will and I can truthfully say it is far less brutal than a football game. Last year there were 97 players in this country alone killed in football & only two killed in the whole world in the ring, so where is your argument?

When are you going to the City? & are you going there just for a visit or are you going there to work? I sincerely hope it isn't the latter.

Hoping you don't keep me waiting so long for an answer this time, I remain

Most sincerely yours, J.F.H.
Camp Seco

15 March 1910. 11:30 P.M.

My Dear Little Friend.

I just got back to my room after a very strenuous day. I got up at 3 A.M. as I had to set a batch of bread (50 loaves) beside turning out five large cakes 22" by 22" & I also had to run breakfast. Leaving the camp at 8 A.M., walking about six miles over the worst roads I ever traveled over to catch the 10 A.M. train, I have been on the go every minute.

Sunday 8 PM. I started the above in Stockton and that is as far as I got. I fell sound asleep in the chair & woke up at 2 A.M., but it just goes to show you that I think of you no matter where I am at.

Well, "Honey dear" how have you been? By the way, what did those dashes stand for at the end of your last letter? I hope to goodness, my dear Honey, that you're not give to hitting the pipe, and if you are you must be a pretty

good smoker to write all of such a letter without relighting up once. Please do tell me what they stood for.

I have a sort of "want to write" feeling tonight, but cannot think of a thing that would be of interest to you. I expect to hear about another job in a day or two. I sort of intimated to the Madam today that I had a promise of another good place & honestly the poor lady came out of her room later with her eyes all red. She surely has had a hard time with her cooks. She was telling me that her husband was telling her that he didn't think there was a cook living that could please the boarders and him, until I came along. That was a whole lot to say, & I am really proud of it. "Ain't you?"

But it is an awful place to work in. Say, you know the St. Patrick waitress I told you about in my last? Well, she loosened up a bit last Friday when I wasn't here & got a peach of a jag. She got up out of bed to get a drink (of water I suppose) and the floor jumped up and hit her on the lower lip. Gee, it's about the size of an overgrown watermelon, with a tall can inside it. She has traded places with the dishwasher until the swelling goes down sufficiently for her to see where she's going.

She told me today she has a 19 year old daughter in San Francisco & and has written her to come & stay with her for a week or so. I hope she comes & takes good care of her mother as the old "Biddy" is sure a good worker "when she is right." So the daughter works in the Royal Cracker Co.'s works and takes care of herself, and judging from her photo, she is quite good-looking. But not to me. She has blond hair, the 21 kind that I used to sell in the drug business.

I am getting quite sleepy, and I had no right to write this letter at all, as it is your turn, but I just wanted to let you know that I still remember you, even if it is after a hard day of 17 hours work. With my kind regards to your dear mother and the same to you.

Serving food to camp workers in typical 1910 setting. Courtesy Paradise Historical Society.



I remain most sincerely yours, JFH
Campo Seco.

9:15 P.M. St. Patrick's Day

My dear little Honey friend,

I just had a bath so now I will write you a page or two before turning in. Yours anxiously awaited arrived this morning. So you acknowledge yourself as being of a curious nature, and place yourself in the category as a "cat." Now, please Honey, don't say such things. If you said kitten, it would be more in keeping, as you are hardly old enough to call yourself an old cat.

I'm very sorry your folks couldn't have gone to Stockton. I had a bum time in consequence. Gee! Did I send you three cards from Stockton? I guess the 1 cent due letter is a card in an envelope I sent you. By the way, your letter that arrived today had a 1 cent due stamp on it, so it's square.

Yes, now my dishwasher has camed. She only weighs 242 pounds. Got my money's worth, sure thing. It's too bad that I didn't ask you to accept the position as you insinuated in one of your letters that you couldn't work for anyone in such a capacity. Of course, it's hard work and looked down on by some, but it's honorable work.

So you advise me to keep away from Chico. Unexpectedly? Well, that is the way I would have to come as I know of no one of whom I could ask an invite. Gee, but you country people are pretty good people, don't you think?

About that photo, my dear Honey, I surely expect to send you one some day, but I take such a bum photo that I am honestly afraid to send you one. But, sure. Cross my heart.

Friday 9 P.M.

Well, I guess the trick is didded. I will be leaving this place in a very short time. I gave a weeks notice so it is up to them. I just let my dutch get the best of me just to show what a fool I could make of myself. I feel sorry for the poor Madam as she is a hard worker, but the old man—he has got hook-worm beat a mile.

If I could I would walk out tonight. It was all over making raised doughnuts, but it's too long a story. The Madam's two kids (one is 9 and the other 12) were the cause of it all. The old man was in my room and just left. He is trying to soothe things over. He brought me a drink of brandy, but I said "Nit" & pulled out my bottle of whisky & treated him, as I never drink whisky.

But say, Honey, how is the weather up your way tonight? It is raining like h___ here. I like to hear and see it rain, don't you?

Saturday 9 P.M.

Well, I'm still at it. A duce of a time all day, but the Mrs. got me to change my mind, at least for the present.

The old man had an awful "Foot" on this P.M. I favored the Madam and her children by going out in the heavy rain & bring him home. But this is of no interest to you, is it, Honey? I am quite sleepy but I couldn't forgo the pleasure of scratching you a page or so before I turn in.

Oh, say, Honey, please send the violets but don't make too large a bunch, as my pocket isn't so very large.

Did I ever tell you about being to sea? Well, there isn't a port of any size or note that I haven't been in. I was head cook on the "Ramses" of the Kosmos Steamship Co. for nearly 4 1/2 years. Was shipwrecked in the S.S. Islander, where 128 lives were lost & being in the cold northern water for 9 hours & and after that in an open boat in a heavy fog for 37 hours before we got ashore. It gives me the creeps every time I think of it, so no more about that. It was on Oct. 28th & awful cold, so when I tell you not to tell the Skipper, you will know that I believe what you say.

Talking about baseball, I used to play on the U.C. nine of Berkeley when I was attending a special course there, going to the College of Pharmacy & "Hands up" I'm a "bug" and a big one at that.

I can hardly keep my eyes open, so I will quit, finish tomorrow night. TaTa! Happy dreams, Honey. Regards to your Mama.

Sunday 9:25 P.M.

I am still hammering away at this letter.

This has been a terrible day, breaking a new, in fact two new hands, Dishwasher and waitress, and by the looks of things, I will have to go through the same performance in a day or two. The work is too hard. Just imagine a lady packing heavy oak wood up from the cellar (a flight of 27 steps) for a 11 foot range, & a big lazy, husky standing around watching her do it. It's the limit. I cannot do it, & if I did it once I would have to continue.

By the way, I forgot to ask you what size of clothes you wear so as I will be sure to have a nice nobby suit for you for the 4th of July. Your shirt waist, length of pants, size of foot and—Oh, yes, I "mean" it, you have my dare, so we will see what kind of sport you are.

So you expect to go to the City Easter, do you? Will you accept an invitation to the Orpheum? Matinee, of course. I'll tell you what I will do. I will get the seats, three if you like, send you two, for yourself and a friend, and I will keep the other one as a "memento." Is it a bet? Don't say No or my heart will surely break before morning.

Dear little Honey, you must be terribly discouraged, but please bear up. The City is a nice place, I know, but I know it only too well. It's all right if you have someone to make you toe "the scratch," and even then there is many a slip. Well goodnight, Sweetness. I will try to persuade you tomorrow to stay where you are, for a while anyway.

I forgot to tell you I have lost 9 pounds since I am here. Going some, don't you think?

Monday 3:30 P.M.

What do you think! I have a few moments to spare this P.M., the first time since I am on "the Job." All the men in the smelter are out on strike for \$2 more a day & are off up town at a prayer meeting & the Madam insisted on making my cakes and panning my bread for me, so that is how it happened. It has been raining all day and I hope it keeps up all night, as in case it should stop I am afraid the crowd would come down and raise a church—a "Baptist" - I hope.

You must have a stand in with that Minister. I think I would just as soon see a friend of mine a "Salvation Army Lassie" than a member of the Baptist Church, and as far as their (the B) ministers are concerned— O! Well, well, let it go at that and you have my congratulations. But as to getting jealous of you, I would like to know who has any better right than I have, Don't you think?

Do I play or sing, you ask. Well, you ought to hear my sisters, brother and father, you would think so. "Music" is Dad's and brother's profession. but me, "Nit". I can play a harmonica, tho.

I must try to get a good night's sleep tonight as it's the first chance I have had in six weeks. But I hope to take to the tall timber soon & write you that "long letter." Yours most sincerely "Jack"

Camp Seco
Monday, April 11, 1910.
9:50 P.M.

My Dear Little "Honey" Friend,

What do you think I am doing? I just took a bath & while giving my feet a good salt water soak, I am going to peg a few lines. I am holding the tablet on a book, but as the soaking is about complete I will get busy and finish the letter in my room.

I said I would be going to Sact'o about Saturday. Well, I'm not sure of that day as the boss broke his wagon today & ordered a new one from Stockton. He expects it about Sat. 7 so we will have to go to town, Valley Springs & bring it out to this dump.

If there is any possibility of your going down, just let me know and I will let you know on what days I can get away. If I can I will see a good ball game. I want to sit on the bleachers and tan up a little as I am as pale as a new washed bed sheet, as I haven't been out in the sun since last Fall.

You asked me if the effects from the exposure in the shipwreck was the cause of my impaired health. For goodness sakes, wasn't just the experience enough? The thought

of it keeps me awake many a night, especially of one poor woman (a bride at that) that was in the same boat that picked me out of the water. She collapsed entirely. When the fog raised we could see that the land was not over 10 miles away. But she was dead before we reached shore. Gee! my little "tootsie-wootsies" are cold so I will have to crawl in. If I get off early tomorrow night, I will finish answering your letter.

Yours M.S.-J.F.H.

The "Orpheum", Tues. April 19.
My dear little "Honey" friend,

I had a few minutes to spare while waiting for the band to start playing so I will begin that delayed letter I promised you. I am sorry you are not here with us as you would enjoy yourself.

Instead of being here, I ought to be in my room taking care of myself as its been drizzling rain here all day & I came without my overcoat. It's too dark to write, but I will be sure to finish this when I get to my room.

Room 314, 11:50 P.M.

Well, I sat it out, but I will understatingly say that its the worst show I ever seen at this theater. I actually fell asleep half a dozen times & would be sleeping there yet if the kid hadn't awaken me.

I suppose you want to know how it is I am here? I am afraid of the base of my right lung from the after effects of the attack of pneumonia I had a year ago. I am to be at the Fabiola Hosptal tomorrow at 10 A.M. I am to be there 3 or 4 days providing I am to be butchered. If not, I will chase myself out to the park or the Cliff & write you "that" letter. This is only a note telling you to leave word in Room 314 in case you come down to visit your "Aunti". I will try to write again just as soon as I am able. I want to try to go back to C.S. by next Sunday. Kind regards to your mother.

Most sincerely yours, J.F. Howard

Room 314
% Winchester Hotel, S.F.
Golden Gate Park
Thurs. 22 April, 1910

My dear little "Honey" friend,

You will have to excuse me for keeping you "on the wait" for so long but if you felt as I do you would be in bed instead of romping around the park. I have an awful attack of the blues & am so nervous & unstrung that I cannot stop in one place long enough to catch my breath. As I told you my chest is giving me a lot of bother & haven't let my folks know anything about it, for fear that it will worry my mother too much. There isn't a soul of my friends or folks that know I am here for the reason I am. I am stretched out on the grass a writing this & as the position is too uncomfortable I will try to find a better place. I can't think of a single

thing to write about so I will take a hike around & by that time, probably my thoughts will be collected sufficiently for me to say something of interest.

9:30 P.M.

I told you I would hardly know where I would wind up today but anyway, I had quite a good time.

When I left off in this letter, I heard a bunch of youngsters shouting & on investigating, I found a schoolmam out for an airing with her class of 6th grade pupils, about 20 of them. I got on speaking terms with them in short order & then I proceeded by putting up prizes for all sorts of games. There were running races, jumping of all sorts, 3 legged race & in fact everything I could think of. The first prize was 10 cents cash & a bag of peanuts for the next three winners of every game. It cost me about \$3 but before we got through we had an audience of at least 2000 people.

Talk about your time! It was the finest time I have had in many a day. By barring out the winners, we managed to have every one of the kids get 10 cents & a bag of peanuts. One old codger wanted to put up a 50 cent prize but the schoolmam wouldn't stand for it. We were there until nearly 5 o'clock & a more contented & satisfied bunch of kids you never saw.

There were 4 of us giving the prizes & after it was all over, the "old codger" put up an invite (including the schoolmam) for a big eat & he surely did it up in fine style. The party didn't break up until nearly 9 o'clock. There were seven of us in the party, and the funny fact of it is not one of us knew the others' names. We just agreed to sup together and after that to each go his own way. Two of the men had their wives with them. It does me a world of good to be the direct cause of a lot of kids having a good time.

8:00A.M.

It seems strange that I am interrupted so often in writing your letter. There was a big fire last night in the block below here, so I had to take it in & while there met an old San Jose friend of mine. She was head distributor & checker in the paper box factory that burnt. It will throw about 400 hands out of a job for at least three months, but most of them are girls & they can always make a living in this town, especially this time of year. I will try to have a photo taken of myself today & "if", well! You know.

1 P.M.

I have been all over the beach looking for some quiet place & the only place I could find is the last bench on lovers lane below the south esplanade. You would be surprised to see the crowd of people out here today. You would have died laughing had you been here with me. There was an old lady (about 50, I should judge) giving her little "tootsies" a salt water bath. A playful little dog chasing a stick made a dive through her legs & over went the poor old Madam. It was a shame to laugh at her until you seen her laughing

sitting in the water. In fact she thought it was the greatest joke ever. Her daughter laughed so much that her mother was afraid she was going into hysterics, but it surely put everyone around in a good humor. I will try to answer your letter, but as a gang of giggling youngsters just came in & are starting to have their lunch, its impossible. So I guess I will go jump a car & go down to the park.

So, you didn't think me asking you to Sacto for the day was just right? Well, probably under the circumstances I should not have asked you, but if we had gone there, there would have been a grand time, as I know some of the nicest people in town. I had full charge of Hammer's drug store while he was on a trip to Europe of 7 months.

You surely have a nerve about you to let such a little thing as going calling with your mother, to make you stop writing a letter to me. And the idea, to think you refused an invitation to go to church, & just after joining one. By the way, did the minister duck you when you joined & did you have a bathing suit or were you without one? Never mind now, I told you once before that I am already salted. But you certainly were a Dear old darling to forgo the pleasure of chewing the wad with the preacher, to write to me.

I am glad you like those endearing terms of mine as I can assure you I wouldn't use them, had I not seen your photo, at least that's the way I think at present. There might be strong objections to them from you after you once see me. But I will be frank with you and tell you that I only use those terms to those who cannot come back at me. Ha! Ha!

You asked if its very warm in our kitchen, its D___ hot and I weigh just 17 pounds today less than the day I went to work at C.S.

You ask if I remember much about the quake. I was down in Camp Capitola on the day & I was 21 hours getting from there to San Jose, and came up to Oakland on April 20. I could tell you of hundreds of incidents both sad & gay, but it takes too long to write them.

There is one though, that I will never forget & that was seeing a fellow get shot by a soldier for cutting a ring off a dead woman's hand. It was on Market Street, off Grant Ave. He was shot like a dog and it was a pity to waste a bullet on him. I also seen a poor woman going down Market with a dead canary in a battered bird cage. I told her of it & she took out the poor little bird and wrapped it in a piece of her skirt and kept the cage. I was with a friend of mine on a wagon and seen him refuse \$100 to take a trunk from the Palace Hotel to the park, but took a poor old woman and a bundle of rags out to the Mission. He made about \$6000 in three days with his team.

Well, Honey, I will have to call it quits for this time and I want to get down town in time for this to go out tonight. I expect to be back at Campo Seco tomorrow, so I expect to hear from you early next week.

Most sincerely, J.F.H.

**The History Computerization Project
of the Regional History Center of the University of Southern California and the
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**Computer Database Management
For Writing Institutional Histories**

By David L. Clark, History Computerization Project

The subject of this article is the use of computer database management, in combination with international cataloging standards, for historical research and writing. The procedures described are those which I used to write two institutional histories:

1. A history of the Avery corporation, best known for Avery Labels, published in 1988. The book won the Donald H. Pflueger Award for Corporate History from the Historical Society of Southern California, and was favorably reviewed in *The Public Historian*, Vol. 13, No. 1 (Winter 1991), pages 78-80.

2. A history of the California Club, with publication expected in 1996.

Have Something to Show during the Project

Computer database management is an essential tool for keeping track of the progress of a research project. The normal method of research has been to write down the information on index cards. Hand-written notes are not easily read by their author, and they are useless to anyone else. As a result, no one really knows how well the work is going.

A computer database program allows a far better method. The researcher and project director or committee can review the research accomplished at any time in clear, legible, report or first-draft manuscript form. The researcher can easily print out reports containing the information gathered each month, or information on particular topics. Examples of computer database records for textual material appear at the end of this paper.

**When Writing, Begin with a First Draft,
Not with Note Cards**

The institution that commissioned the history will be concerned with the efficiency of the work for which it is paying. Computer database management can make the historian's time far more productive.

If you have already done a fair amount of writing, and you are well organized, when you sit down to write a chapter or article you probably start with a stack of three-by-five note cards. You spread the cards out on the desk like a blackjack dealer in Las Vegas. Then you work your way through the cards, translating your notes into first draft text. The cards in many cases are difficult to decipher, either because they are hand-written or because you have used abbreviations the meanings of which you do not recall several weeks, months, or years later.

Computer database management can make the writing process much easier and more efficient. When I sit down to write a chapter or article, I start with a first draft. The draft includes the footnotes, index, and bibliography. There are no note cards. The

stage of translating from and retying note cards has been eliminated.

During research, I enter the information directly into a computer database. Information collected in the field, away from a desktop computer, is gathered with a portable computer. After collecting the information at libraries, archives, and other locations on my portable computer, I transfer the data directly into a database on a desktop computer.

Whether I am using a portable or a desktop machine, I type the information into a data entry form. Default Choices eliminate from 50 to 90 percent of the typing on the form, as the computer picks the most likely entry and offers it to me to accept or to change.

The last field on the data entry form is a long DESCRIPTION Field. Here I type the material that I later want to use in the text. I type this material in first draft manuscript form, with complete sentences, rather than in cryptic, note-taking style. The data entry program includes all of the features common to word processors for entering and editing text.

When I am ready to write the chapter or article, I simply tell the database program to send the information over to the word processor.

I always considered writing footnotes to be the most aggravating part of scholarly writing. I do not have to write footnotes anymore. The database program does it for me. The program takes the bibliographic information, such as author and title, and creates a properly-formatted footnote. The *Avery History* contained 675 footnotes, and the *California Club History* held 411. I did not have to write any of them.

Deliver Both a Book and a Database

Computer database management can make the product that you deliver far more valuable. In addition to handing over a written document such as a company history, you can also deliver a database.

The organization will have access to all of the information gathered during the project, including those items that did not find their way into the final book. The information is easily understood, because it has been written in draft manuscript style.

The information can easily be retrieved, because it follows international cataloging standards. Five years later, no one will have to guess what term the historian used for trolley cars. The standards are clearly documented in *Library of Congress Subject Headings* and other publications, which are available at any library as well as distributed in print, on microfiche, and on CD-ROM. (The Library of Congress term for trolley cars is "Street-railroads.")

The database can also produce a list, in alphabetical order, of all of the subject headings used, and show how many times each subject appeared. The data collected by the project can be made available in printed form, with printed indexes for names, subjects, and sources. With the database immediately at hand in either printed or electronic form, the organization could easily look up, for example, the history of its policy positions on a certain issue.

Draw Upon an Inventory of Past Work

The time spent producing an institutional history, or any history, will be far more productive if you can readily draw upon an inventory of your past work. Research is principally a cataloging process. The researcher spends the greatest portion of his or her time reading through primary source materials and recording notes and excerpts. Most of the information gathered will not find its way into the eventual published work. The unpublished material still has value, however. And particularly in the case of historical materials, the information does not lose its value over time. When a researcher gathers information about the founding of a Spanish mission or a Civil War battle, that material does not grow out-of-date five years later.

Even one lone researcher or writer, over the course of years of work, will build up a considerable inventory of information. But can you find a particular quote or fact which you recorded five years ago? Would you welcome the opportunity to write an article on a topic which you researched several years past? How much work would be involved in getting to those materials?

Your note cards are probably in the garage or attic where they were rained on last winter. If you can find the notes, and they are still legible, they are probably full of abbreviations which you made up at the time and whose meanings you have long forgotten.

The combination of computer database management with library and archival cataloging procedures will allow you to use the information that you have collected in the past in the same way that a business uses its inventory. The data will be there for you to draw upon. You can call it up immediately from the database whenever you have a question.

Unlike an inventory of goods, information is not exhausted through use. Instead, you can take advantage of each new project to add to and to deepen your understanding of the information collected previously. You can treat the total body of information which you have collected as a coherent whole.

Retrieve Information Quickly for Further Investigation

During the project, the researcher can quickly retrieve information from the database on any subject. For example, when you are preparing to interview someone, you would simply call up from the database all the information on that person, or on the subjects or organizations with which that person was involved.

Having the information available in database form greatly facilitates the research process. During research, information is most often collected in small, isolated, bits and pieces. Computer database management will allow you to explore quickly and easily many different possibilities for connections between the individual pieces.

An example of the need to bring together isolated pieces of

information occurred while I was writing the *California Club History*. I pulled thousands of individual bits of data from one hundred years of the minutes of the board of directors. The items, when viewed individually, held little interest. But through database searching and manipulation I was able to pull together like items stretching over a one hundred year time span and weave them together into a story.

Access Information In Machine-Readable Form

The use of a computer database will allow you to access important sources of information in machine-readable form. Such information can be loaded directly into your database, without typing. As business offices adopt automated procedures, an increasing volume of information is available electronically. The researcher can cut up the information into the appropriate pieces and send them over to the database.

Publications such as the *Harvard Business Review* are available electronically, in full-text form, via online databases which are accessible over the telephone lines. The online services also offer bibliographic information, which the researcher can store for further investigation.

One specific example of the employment of machine-readable information was the use of oral history interview transcripts for the *Avery History*. The Avery Corporation had not maintained many of its written records, but all of the principal figures in its 50-year history were alive and available for interviews. Approximately 90 percent of the materials eventually used for the book were gathered through oral history interviews.

Secretaries at the Avery Corporation typed all of the interview transcripts from the recordings which I made. The secretaries typed the transcripts into a word processor. I then took the computer files into my word processor, cut out the quotations and excerpts that I wanted, and sent them over to the database.

Free Tutorial, Conference Exhibits

For a free printed tutorial on the use of computer database management for organizing historical materials, please contact us using the information in the project masthead. Our Internet Home Page (featured in *California Historian*, Spring 1995, pages 24-25) continues to bring leads on potential members to CCHS at a rate of 60 per month. The project will have an exhibit booth with computer demonstrations at each of the CCHS meetings. The upcoming events are listed below:

Conference of California Historical Societies In Lancaster, North L.A. County, June 20-23, 1996. Host mailing address: Lancaster Museum, c/o Lancaster City Hall, 44933 North Fern Ave, Lancaster, CA 93534. Exhibit location: Lancaster Museum, 44801 North Sierra Hwy, Lancaster, CA 93534, (805) 723-6250. Directions: Antelope Valley Fwy (Hwy 14) to Lancaster, Avenue I exit, east to Sierra Hwy, south past Lancaster Blvd. Exhibit open: Sat June 22, 9-12. Cost to enter exhibit area: Free.

CCHS In Carson City, Nevada, Sept 28-29, 1996

CCHS In Needles, San Bernardino County, Feb 14-16, 1997

Conference Concerns

HIGHLIGHTS FROM A SUCCESSFUL SPRING SYMPOSIUM

The Kern County Historical Society were hosts to the Conference of California Historical Societies, March 1-3, with every minute of the packed weekend enjoyable and/or educational.

There is something of a Utopian touch to the Bakersfield arrangement for large meetings. A beautiful and efficient library in the same complex as the convention center! Planners might be expected to say, "Idealistic but impractical. Convention goers want to party or paint the town red when through with the nuts and bolts of their business sessions."

In Bakersfield, by plan or lucky happenstance, the Beale Memorial Library, administrative center for the county system, is almost side by side with the Convention Center - with only the Holiday Inn Select sandwiched in between.

The hosts, in the form of the planning committee for

the symposium, used the Beale Library as a focal point, holding our meetings in its specialized areas, and touring its excellent art collection which features the work of largely contemporary artists.

Even the opening night banquet honored the library, projecting its symbolism as the key to understanding, both of our heritage and the challenge of our future. Very well done!

Learning about Kern County was made palatable, beginning with Bill Hample's introduction through slides of the many roadside markers throughout the county, "Blank verse by the side of the road."

Two tours, each requiring two buses, went off on Saturday after appropriate briefing—in the library, of course. Wide-eyed visitors to the Tracy Ranch, a successful financial operation for 120 years, came to realize that success in farming today means constant adaptation to new methods and to market demands, diversification in ways never dreamed by our grandparents.

1 MARCH 1996 FRIDAY NIGHT BANQUET HEAD TABLE

Back row, from left to right: Ron Limbaugh - Executive Director, CCHS; Dee Mooneyham - Director, Beale Memorial Library; Archie McDonald, President, CCHS; Dr. Joseph Anderson - President, Kern County Historical Society; Robert Price - Mayor, City of Bakersfield. **Front row, from left to right:** Lois McDonald - Editor, CCHS California Historian; Diane Duquette - Director, Kern County Library System; Susianna Anderson - Hostess and wife of Dr. Joseph Anderson. Robert Crabtree photo.

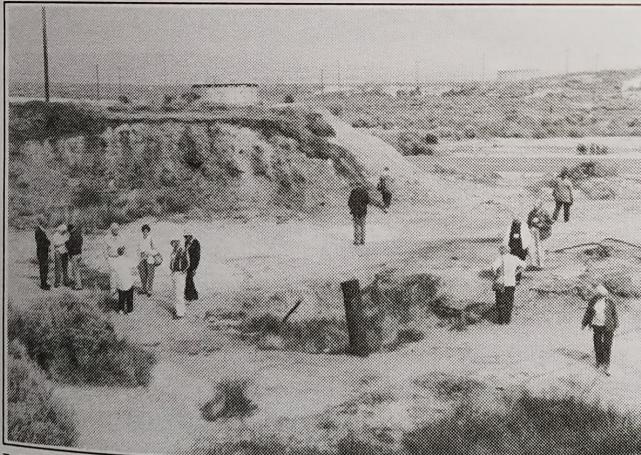


Conference Concerns

Oil production over a similar time period was described by Dean Van Zandt and Bill Rintoul, oil field historians who learned expertise through practical experience. The big deposits tapped in the 19th Century are gone, but modern



Contemplating a "herd" of West Kern workhorses.



Marvelling at the hole blown out by an 18-month gusher.

methods continue to make extraction profitable. The "old ways" were perhaps more picturesque: The once thriving town of Mariposa, a hole scoured out by a gusher never brought under control, the two oil museums, one at Taft and the other in Bakersfield.

But not all was devoted to the consumption of history. The Noreiga Basque Restaurant, historic in its own right, left Conference attendees groaning from the consumption of course after course, liberally lubricated with red wine.

CCHS business sessions were exceptionally productive. The Long Term Planning Committee was voted as a permanent arm of the Conference at a short membership meeting. The Vice Presidents' session was well attended and lively,

with four of the five newest RVPs on hand: Olivia Fernandez, Laurence Talbott, Kristiane Maas and Edward Grijalva. We were happy to see Lolita Lowell who doesn't make it from Santa Monica to all the symposiums, and Betty Maffei, filling in for Mary Ellen Jones from Contra Costa.

The workshops, one on increasing local society membership, the other on how to successfully publish local history, were crowded and thought-provoking. Many notes were being taken!

Each symposium and annual meeting that we have attended over some 12 years has been unique, but Kern County presented a business-like and fun-filled meeting that rates with the best. Thank you for a job well done.

1996-98 SLATE TO BE APPROVED BY CCHS MEMBERSHIP

The Conference of California Historical Societies annual meeting will be an important business session. Only on even-numbered years are officers elected and committee chairpersons appointed, since the membership thus amended the bylaws during the presidency of Norma McCumber, 1988.

The slate proposed by the Nominating Committee follows:

President, Arthur Almeida

First Vice President, Gordon Martin

Second Vice President, Flo Rutherford

Secretary, Ann Shea

Treasurer, Marj Rump

Committee Chairpersons and Other State Organization Liaisons will be proposed to the membership for ratification by the incoming president at the annual meeting. The president will also appoint to the Executive Committee three persons in addition to the members stipulated in the bylaws, namely, president, both vice presidents, secretary, treasurer and immediate past president.

In accordance with the bylaws and *Robert's Rules of Order*, nominations may be made from the floor with the advance consent of the nominee.

The new president will be outlining some of his objectives for his term, and be open to suggestions from the membership at this important meeting of members. These include the members of any member society, museum or library; Associate members, and members of Associations of Historical Societies.

Reports will be made to the membership by retiring officers and, when appropriate, committee chairpersons, and by the Executive Director, Ron Limbaugh.

Conference Concerns

INTRODUCING
Edward T. Grijalva
Regional Vice-Pres., S.
Orange County

It is hard to know where to begin when telling you about Eddie Grijalva. Had we not met him at the Bakersfield Symposium and know him to be a humor-loving, gentle person, his resume as historian, genealogist and lecturer might have left us over-awed. We are impressed, and want to share a little about his background with Conference members.

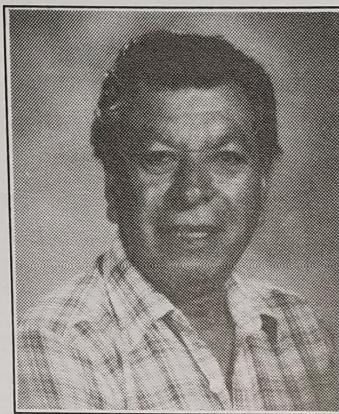
Tracing back the story of his Grijalva ancestral family has taken Eddie many years, but he can begin as early as 1518 when Juan de Grijalva led an expedition for the Spanish forces in Yucatan. Hernando Grijalva was a part of Cortez' 1533-34 expedition on which California was discovered. Juan Pablo Grijalva was appointed as Sergeant of the Juan Bautista de Anza expedition into California, and as such was one of those to arrive at the original Pueblo at San Francisco in 1776. He stayed at this station for 10 years, during which time both of his daughters were married at Mission Dolores, to men of the Yorba and Peralta families.

It is the histories of Ranchos Las Flores and Santiago de Santa Ana that have occupied much of Eddie's attention. The first was his cousin Juan Pablo Grijalva's original choice when he petitioned the Spanish Government for land after retirement from the military forces. This site, today's Camp Pendleton, was claimed by the Padres of Mission San Luis Rey. Santiago de Santa Ana was the site of present day Orange where, in 1801, Juan built his adobe, later willing it to his wife and grandsons, Jose Antonio Yorba and Juan Pablo Peralta.

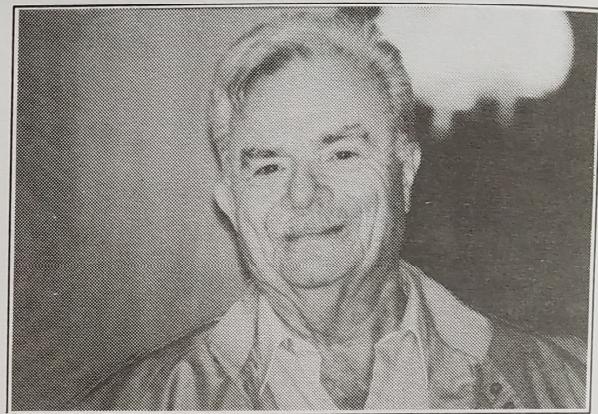
Eddie is just as proud of his one-fourth Gabrielino descent, through which he can claim 20,000 years of California heritage!

For the present, as South Orange County RVP, Eddie represents a number of flourishing historical societies. In the course of our contacts in CCHS business meetings, we hope to learn more of the past that he has researched. And, incidentally, on which he has a prepared lecture series.

Grijalva has received several awards for his research, and for contribution to Orange County history in writing and lectures.



Laurence Fletcher Talbott
Reg. Vice-Pres.,
Central Coast Counties



Dr. Talbott's love of history led him to a second career. He presently teaches history at California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo, the institution from which he retired in 1987 as a member of the Engineering and Technology Faculty.

With several degrees in engineering under his belt from undergraduate work at San Diego State through an M.B.A. in Industrial Management at USC, an Ed.D. in Manufacturing engineering and an M.A. in Civil engineering, Laurence opted to pick up three more degrees in history, including a Ph.D. from the Union Institute. All of the work in history was after retirement, and to get academic credentials to enter a new career—history.

Research has led to the preparation of a manuscript on Confederate activity in California, and he counts among his recent accomplishments, initiation into the Sons of Confederate Veterans. He tells us that he has found another RVP with a similar legacy rooted in the Confederate States of America, namely, John Swisher.

If we are not mistaken, Laurence shares another experience with Swisher. They both saw service in the South Pacific arena of World War II.

Laurence's impressive experience includes employment as an industrial engineer, electrical engineer and design unit leader. This era was sandwiched between military service and his entrance to the walls of academe as faculty member.

He states that he has had a lifelong love for the study of history. It has found expression in several ways, including genealogical research. We are delighted to have an opportunity to share his expertise through the activities of the Conference. Hope to see his wife Patsy, too!

Conference Concerns

Breaking Bread with the Genealogists

Thanks to an invitation from the Sacramento Valley Region Director of the California State Genealogical Alliance, Iris Carter Jones, CCHS President Archie McDonald attended the Board of Directors' Meeting of the Alliance held in Paradise on March 16.

It was a daylong confab, reminiscent of the business sessions at which we at CCHS go about trying to promote and strengthen a union of many organizations dedicated to a common purpose. At CSGA, family historical research is being promoted. This we can identify with, for few hobby-historians have neglected to try to trace the personal roots that have planted us in the midst of a rich local, state and regional lore.

Wendy Elliott, a history prof at Fullerton State University, is the President of the California State Genealogical Alliance, and presided over the day's meetings. The local hosts, Paradise Genealogical Society, had arranged for a tasty lunch to be brought in, and the day flew by as reports from the several regions were made, four new regions created, and updates on vital projects made. One such is the 1890 Grand Register compilation, county by county, for all of California.

Joining ranks with CSGA in supporting legislation kind to historians of all kinds is clearly indicated. Iris Carter Jones makes regular reports on pertinent legislation to the Alliance.

In some ways, the genealogists are way ahead of us in the expansion of computer usage, both in research and in publishing. They have much to teach us.

The Annual Meeting of the Alliance was held in Sacramento June 1, 1996, at Sacramento City College. Ten speakers were scheduled, according to Iris Carter Jones. A gamut of topics, from the ABCs of genealogy for beginners to Surfing the Internet were lined up, so we are certain that

it was a very exciting day.

Using the resources of the Alliance is within easy reach of CCHS members who seek help with a genealogical question. Our liaison with family history organizations is Mimi L o z a n o Holtzman, President of Hispanic Historical and Ancestral Research, P. O. Box 5294, Fullerton, CA 92635, Phone (714) 894-8161. In fact, all

inquiries of a genealogical nature that come into the Stockton office are referred to Holtzman for assignment to the appropriate person if she cannot herself answer the question.

Questions about the work of the Alliance may be sent to President Wendy Elliott, 1060 Magnolia Ave., Placentia, CA 92670, (714) 993-1168, FAX 714-773-2101.



Wendy Elliott, President of the California State Genealogical Alliance and CCHS President McDonald.

Retiring President McDonald, from page 2

the Pacific (with facts and figures provided by Executive Director Ron Limbaugh) I signed the Memorandum of Understanding on May 5, 1995, extending our relationship to June 30, 2000. We appreciate the expertise and stability of headquarters at that University.

A new service developed since June 1994 is the History Hotline, combining the previous CCHS Infobank with History Database. The Winter issue, 1995, of our journal carried an article by Ron Limbaugh explaining the benefits and how to use them. In addition, CCHS will join the technology of the Internet through WEB, another example of having services expanded through association with UOP.

Finally, my appointing a Special Fund Raising Committee and a Long Term Planning Committee puts in place a foundation for greater funding and provision for continuity in implementing the CCHS mission on a predictable basis.

The challenge to provide leadership, accountability, credibility and service enunciated by me at the beginning of my term of president has produced results. The challenge remains, and I urge the membership to support Officers and Board and to contribute to the success of this unique history confederation.

President-Elect Almeida, from page 2

poses herein above." This broad language allows the Conference, with the proper leadership, to seek out and find ways and means to further the cause of the other seven (7) purposes.

Number three (3) for instance again speaks of education wherein it states in part; "To educate the public to the treasures of our pioneer heritage by the collection and dissemination of information of historical value." With bountiful resources available we must promote events, sites or persons across the board. Some of the most important occurrences in California involve unions and their struggles to improve the lot of working people. Our task is not to choose which side of history is right but only to relate each side's strong beliefs. California history is all inclusive; to ignore any part of it may well minimize our credibility.

I do not believe that the CCHS can be construed as a sedate, bland and a status quo organization. A determined effort to help publicize local histories is imperative. We may be local in nature but by visionary leadership we must encompass the state.

Through the timeless efforts of our Executive Committee, RVPs, committees and members, we can accomplish goals once perceived as impossible. Let's pull together to make CCHS an even more truly viable, dynamic, progressive and involved Conference.

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The Sanchez File

by William Crane Roddy

(San Juan Bautista, Ca.: The History Company,
1995, 40 pages, \$4.75)

On Christmas Eve 1852, Jose Maria Sanchez, drowned while trying to cross the rain swollen Pajaro River. Sanchez's estate was estimated at \$300,000, the bulk of which came from his holding over 44,000 acres of land in Monterey County. *The Sanchez File* uses probate files to trace the slow but steady decline of this once great estate.

The death of Sanchez set off a mad scramble by local men to marry the young widow, Encarnacion Ortega, and take control of the vast holdings. She eventually married five times with four of her husbands dying between 1852-1855. It seemed to some that marrying the rich widow or even involvement in her estate was an invitation to disaster. A total of eleven men died, most violently. The husbands, with varying degrees of success, conspired with sheriffs, judges, and others to defraud their beautiful but gullible bride of her wealth. In the end all but a pittance remained of her fortune.

This essay is an interesting exploration of probate proceedings and how they can be applied to the study of local history. My only complaint, and it a minor one that can fixed easily, is that the essay is printed in such a way that it is hard to distinguish between the author's narrative and lengthy quotes from newspapers and probate documents. The print size or font should be changed so that there is no question as to what is narration and what is quoted material.

Reviewed by Mike Gillis
California State University, Chico

Arthur Hill

Western Actor, Miner and law Officer

By John Moring

Sunflower University Press, Box 1009, Manhattan, KS
66502-4228. 115 pp., Softcover, \$16.95 (\$2.50 S&H)

Although the author was acquainted with Arthur Hill in his later years, he states this book would not have been possible without the help of others. Specifically, the audio-taped interviews with Mr. Hill by Lois Moring done during the 1950s; and Pliny Castanien, San Diego Police Department Historian who provided research assistance.

This is the story of Arthur Hill, a man larger than life. Although he never amassed a large fortune or achieved notoriety outside of his community, he lived a successful and useful life.

The following paragraph from Chapter One best describes this man:

"Old-timers in the West had a term for people like Arthur Hill. They would call him "notional." It is a word that has been largely replaced in language of today, but it fit Arthur Hill. It didn't mean shiftless or lazy—far from it. Arthur Hill was hard-working and intelligent. But notional people did things as the idea or notion struck them. They moved on to new jobs, new

challenges, and new careers, drifting with the tides of history. And, many of them made their marks."

Arthur Reavis Hill was born in El Cajon, California on July 8, 1874. His family and childhood days would have been considered average for the time. During his early years he traveled far and wide as he panned for gold in Alaska, became an actor, met Wyatt Earp, worked the mines in Arizona and wrote a stage play with his first wife, an actress. After her sudden death he returned to the valley of his youth.

In 1914 he began his career with the San Diego Police Department as a patrolman, rising to the rank of Chief in 1931. As the automobile became a part of the San Diego lifestyle he developed the first downtown traffic plan. He led the largest manhunt in San Diego history for the machine-gun killing of two casino money-car guards. In 1919 he married Ida Rooker Griffin, a police department matron and widow with 3 children. After 21 years of service, he retired in 1935. For most of his 85 years he had been "notational", and on April 26, 1960 at last there was rest. The thorough research done by John Moring is reflected in the endnotes. Reprints of photographs from days gone by offer a glimpse into the life of this most "notional" man.

Reviewed by Carllene Marek
Paradise Genealogical Society

Saucer Eyes

A Story of Becoming in
Hard Rock Mining Country

by Bulah Croson Laucks
(Fithian Press, P.O. Box 1525, Santa Barbara, CA 93102
95 pp.; Softcover; \$9.95)

From nickname to book title - *Saucer Eyes* was the result of the author's habit from almost the time she was born of exaggerated widening of her eyes when concentrating. She shares this information with the reader as well as recollections of her early life as a miner's daughter in Gold Hill, Nevada. She begins the book with her earliest childhood memory at age five in 1914 and ends it with her first "date" with a would-be swain as a 'skinny, flat-chested twelve year-old', seven years later.

Several pages of photographs introduce the reader to the family - her parents and siblings as well as grandparents. Some of the memorable events at Gold Hill were the thrill of her first day at school, sledding down the gulch with the help of nearby miners, the excitement of Gypsies and Indians visiting the town, and the arrival of a baby brother via the doctor's black bag. Next, was the adventure of a first train ride and move to Woody, California via Bakersfield.

A new home and school gave rise to new friends and events such as the schoolmaster's willow switch and dunce cap, and two near-tragic accidents involving her siblings. With the closure of the Greenback Copper Mine in 1917 the family was back in Bakersfield, where her eldest sister married and the younger children were enrolled in St. Francis, a Catholic grammar school. Here, she was introduced to the Nuns, particularly Sister Bonaventure, wartime propaganda, Flanders fields, the Red Poppy

Book



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sales, and finally the Armistice. It was about this time she made her first telephone call, a memorable event for any youngster in 1918.

In 1921 her father was offered a job at the Blue Mountain Goldmine, about 10 miles beyond Woody. Again there was a new school and more adventures, this time with Eulah sporting the latest "flapper" hair cut. At the end of seven months, the family returned to Bakersfield and Eulah to the Nuns.

The author has taken events from a by-gone era, captured the mood of the times, and presented them to us though the eyes of a child. This collection of vignettes from her childhood is an excellent way to introduce young and old alike to everyday life in the early years of this century. Such a delightful little book, an enjoyable and entertaining read!

**Reviewed by Carlene Marek
Paradise Genealogical Society**

The Foundations of Placer County Horticulture from 1850-1900

By Samuel Evans Gittings

(Placer County Historical Society, 1996, 155 pp., maps, drawings, seven colored fruit labels. Velobinding. \$30.00.

Ordering instructions below)

This thesis, prepared originally in 1940 and completed in 1958 for Mr. Gitting's Master of Arts Degree at Sacramento State College, has been augmented in preparation by P.C.H.S. with the 1914 report on the Origin, Growth and Development of the Hydro-Electric and Irrigation Systems in Placer County.

Gittings begins with the first fruit growers, including Claude Chana, through the slow development of the industry and its many problems, with first the mining industry and then the railroad. He includes many newspaper articles extolling the fruit growers of the day and predicting that Placer County could become the fruit basket of the world.

In 1859, the Board of Managers of the California State Agriculture Society reported: "Sufficient experiments have been perfected to establish the fact beyond further doubt that the great western slope of the Sierra Nevada Mountains... is better adapted to growth and perfection of the apple, pear, peach, plum than any other section of the country of equal extent on the globe."

It would be several more years before this glowing description would actually coincide with the success of the industry. There were bouts with the railroads over reasonable shipping rates. A freeze that came just as a delegation was scheduled by the 1886 Citrus Fair in Los Angeles created a poor impression. Yet in spite of such setbacks, the fruit industry was to be heralded "the second Gold Rush of Placer County."

Mr. Gittings had the good fortune to interview three people closely connected with the "Citrus colony" or "English Colony, established in 1878 by J. Parker Whitney. Much interest and speculation surrounded the English families settling in the area, but an outbreak of malaria cases was responsible for its lack of success. Today palm trees still line the rural roads of the colony area, and a club house is being cared for by present day owners.

The second section of this book covers the development of mining ditches, the Gold Hill and Bear River Canal System, the many successes and failures in the efforts to establish ample water for the miners, and eventually the fruit producers. Details as to owners of, and capacity of, the several canals and reservoirs is detailed up to the final acquisition of the South Yuba Water Company system by Pacific Gas & Electric Co. in 1910.

Placer County is no longer the fruit producer of yesteryear, but this book provides a look back at the days of struggle, development and success of this once giant industry. The book, \$30.00, may be ordered from the Placer County Courthouse Gift Shop, 101 Maple Street, Auburn, CA 95603. Include \$1.75 to cover postage.

**Reviewed by Barbara Von Riper
Placer County Historian**

The St. Francis Dam Disaster, Revisited

**By J. David Rogers, Catherine Mulholland,
Charles N. Johnson, Doyce B. Nunis, Jr., Editor
(Joint publication of the Historical Society of Southern
California and the Ventura County Museum
of History and Art, 1995, soft cover)**

Combining reprints of articles first appearing in their respective journals, the two organizations deserve commendation for this addition to the story of the St. Francis Dam disaster.

I well remember our sixth grade teacher waving in front of our class the metropolitan daily of March 13, 1928, with its banner headline about the rupture of the St. Francis dam.

The publication is divided into three parts. The lengthiest portion by J. David Rogers, briefly reviews needs of Los Angeles for water and tells of the construction of the Los Angeles Aqueduct, bringing water by gravity flow 233 miles from the eastern slope of the Sierra Nevada and the subsequent construction of St. Francis Dam. The project was completed in 1913. Bill Mulholland, chief water engineer for the city of Los Angeles, self-educated, received an honorary doctorate from the University of California 1915 in recognition of the achievement.

St. Francis Dam, a concrete structure, was built in 1925-26 to store Aqueduct water. Constructed on a fault contact without a proper geologic investigation, the dam ruptured following the initial filling of its reservoir. The disaster, which cost the lives of around 450 people, was described as the "greatest American civil engineering failure in the 20th century." (p.2). To its credit the city of Los Angeles settled claims and paid restitution without a single lawsuit. Fittingly this section concludes with an appropriate list of references.

The second portion of the study, written by Catherine Mulholland, granddaughter of William Mulholland, gives family insight. Before the disaster Mulholland was virtually deified. At the time, he was 73, and in ill health. Disgraced by the dam failure, the water engineer lived for several years. This section ends with several pages of notes.

The final section, by Charles N. Johnson, is entitled "Following the Flood." It is a photographic study. But there are

Book



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also numerous photos, maps and sketches elsewhere in the volume.

For purchase, contact Historical Society of So. Calif., 200 E. Avenue 43, Los Angeles, CA 90031-1300. 213-222-0546; FAX 213-222-0771.

Reviewed by David Lantis,
Emeritus Professor, Geography

Polish Americans in California, Vol. II
Ed: Gene Harubin Sygmont, Gillian Olechno-

Huszcza, Henrietta Simons.

(National Center for Urban Ethnic Affairs & Polish American Historical Association. 1995. Soft cover)

To a non-Pole, this book is a true awakening. There are listed fifty-one (51) Polonias (organizations) in California, mainly clustered around the Los Angeles area, but with some in San Francisco and San Jose locale. Also listed in the "Who's Who" section, some 177 names and bios, all in all a most impressive collection. A great number of these persons list Poland or Estonia as their birthplace. Many of them came to the United States after the end of World War II, but some as late as the end of the Cold War. A number of the earlier immigrants were guaranteed to the government by a great gentleman by the name of Leon Blaszczyk, listed as a Polish Guardian Angel in California; many more Poles were resettled by the Catholic Welfare Association. A number of the immigrants were facile in languages, and have made great contributions from their culture into ours, especially in the fields of music, art, education and law. Following their countrymen in the Revolutionary War, General Thaddeus Kosciuszko, many second generation Poles entered the armed forces of this country, one of them being awarded to Congressional Medal of Honor. The branch of choice seems to have been the Marines.

A notable group has appeared in the cinema field, perhaps the best known of which is Stefany Powers, born Stefania Federkiewicz. She is a charming example of a third generation Pole, who speaks the language (plus 6 others), and makes frequent trips to the ancestral home. Many others have become outstanding in the fields of cinematography, (George Milton), Disney projects (Frank Stanek), and Harry Lujewski, from MGM, as well as in medicine, architecture, and, of course, music.

There are many well loved Poles in the religious life, culminating in Pope John Paul II, the first non-Italian to be elevated to the papacy. His visit to Los Angeles in 1987 was a triumph and an affirmation of the Polish stamina, energy and grace.

This book is recommended even to non-Poles, to awaken our interest in the backgrounds and accomplishments of our fellow Americans with sometimes difficult names and languages.

Reviewed by Margaret Herleman
Reg. V. P., Joseph Reddiford Walker Region

Photographing the Second Gold Rush
by Dorothea Lange

(Heyday Books, Berkeley, CA; 1995, 88p., soft cover, \$14.95)

This collection on 60 photographs, several of them published for the first time, shows many scenes of the San Francisco Richmond area during the 1941-1945 was years. Ms. Lange's photo study of the depression years are justly famous, and these unposed images can be accepted as a continuation of the Central Valley collections.

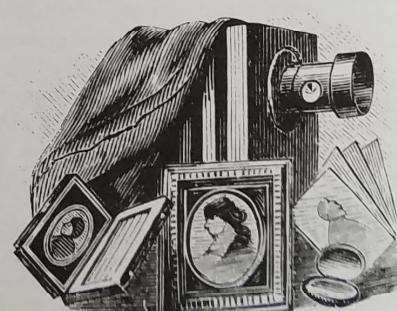
The introduction by Charles Wollenberg throws much light on the reason for many of the depressing and hopeless visages we associate with Lange's work. She had an unhappy childhood and was in pain from an early bout with polio for most of her life. She married a much older man, had two children, which she neglected for much of their lives. She finally settled into a relationship with a very liberal professor from Berkeley for many years. This, plus her communist leanings in her early life, probably explains many of her selections of unhappy and tired faces.

She brings out the massive changes brought about by the first really decent wages offered to any able-bodied man or woman by the shipyards, bringing in many blacks and hungry whites who traveled across the nation for this opportunity. This influx led to great shortages in housing and facilities for entertainment. Many of these changes are still obvious in the Bay area. There were tremendous upheavals in all of the west coast towns during the war years, leading to the title of the Second Gold Rush. But not all of the newcomers were as unhappy and disenchanted as might be expected from these pictures. Many found California the true expression of their desires.

Unfortunately, there are only four photos of the "relocation" of all those of Japanese ancestry, both native born American citizens, as well as immigrants. Wollenberg makes mention of a series of studies made by Lange, working with Ansel Adams, in at least one of the camps, but none of these are included.

This volume brings back memories for many of us who have reason to relive these bygone days, both happy and unhappy, even though unforgettable.

Reviewed by Margaret Herleman



Mazie Adams Honored by Atascadero Museum

In May of this year, a reception was held at the Museum in Atascadero to honor the artist whose photographs of California Missions were on display for the month.

Adams began her collection in 1923, and continued to photograph and hand color the enlarged prints in oils until 1970. This year Adams completes her 95th year. Needless to say, her early recollections of the area, to which she came in 1919, are priceless. She is pictured with her image of San Antonio de Padua Mission, completed in 1950.



Western Railway Museum Drive for Expansion Funds

The museum at Suisun City, which has collected and restored an impressive number of railway cars and track, has now embarked on a drive to build a Visitor and Archive Center adjoining the museum. While they have been saving (\$300,000) for this project, another \$130,000 will be needed to complete the structure for opening at the 50th anniversary celebration of the museum on September 29 of this year. Bill Kluver, chairman of the Bay Area Electric Railroad Association, reports that the Elliott R. Donnelley Family Trust made a generous \$20,000 gift putting

Member Doings

the finish line closer. For information, or to contribute, send to 5848 State Highway 12, Suisun City, 94585.

California's Gold News

Huell Howser took his crew to Suisun Bay in March to prepare an episode in his ongoing chronicle of California's historic sites and people. All PBS channels in the state carry Huell's programs, so check your schedules for both this visit to the mothballed fleet in the bay and the following program featuring the historic firefall in Yosemite Park.

Few have failed to sense a great deal of history in the ghost fleet viewed from Highway 680. After World War II, we knew that this remnant of the powerful U.S. Naval Force could be called back into action should the Cold War turn hot. Now many of these ships, from tankers to tugs to victory ships, await being turned to scrap. *California's Gold* will fill you in on the story.

Some will remember attending the incredible firefall stage in Yosemite National Park during the summer nights from 1872 to 1969. Howser has chosen this event as the focus for a program issued for May viewing but sure to be shown in reruns by the 12 PBS stations.

Healdsburg Museum's Hop Boom

Last February an exhibit opened by the Healdsburg Museum and historical Society featured the Hop Years 1880-1950. Befitting a display on the subject, beer was served by the Bear Republic Brewing Company on opening

night.

The exhibit was divided into four parts. The first dealt with the production of hops as a crop, and the second focused on the "social" aspects of growing hops. Kilns and the drying process of the hops created a third aspect; and, of course, the brewing and bottling industries were natural subjects for a spotlight. As may have been guessed from the years covered in the exhibit, hop growing is no longer a part of Healdsburg's agricultural output. The exhibit told why.

George Yount Makes an Appearance in Napa County

And where else, you ask? True, Yount was one of the very earliest settlers in the Napa area, but his appearance in April of this year at a Historical Society meeting was only possible through the medium of one Lee Hart who has made a study of the colorful mountain beaver trapping man, turned sea otter hunter, who decided to try his hand at making peace with the local natives, and in the process made a piece of the real estate his own ranch. We understand the performance was taped and is available in the Goodman Library.

TGHS Sees Dream Project Dedicated

Through the efforts of a number of Glendale organizations and the City of Glendale itself, an 1880s Queen Anne/Eastlake Victorian built by electric railway pioneer Edgar D. Goode has been restored. The Crippled Children's Society has spearheaded the restoration, with several members of TGHS (The Glendale Historical Society) on the committee. The dedication took place last December 16, and since the search for period furnishings goes on, (as well as the search for donations to finance necessary purchases).

New Japanese American Exhibit in Yuba City

On May 3, through the efforts of the staff at the Community Memorial Museum in Yuba City and the diligent search for artifacts by members of the Japanese American Citizens League, an exhibit opened at 1333 Butte House Road. The focus of the exhibit is based on a book recently published through combined efforts of Japanese descendants in Butte, Colusa, Sutter and Yuba counties. The museum is open some hours each day except Monday. For information, (916) 741-7141. The exhibit will continue through September 1.

Award Winners Continue to earn Kudos

Marylee Smith, who two years ago was presented an Award of Merit from the Conference for her Indian Museum at Klamath, has recently been awarded the F. Norman Clark Entrepreneur of the Year Award from the California Travel Industry Association. Smith's **Trees of Mystery** complex, with its nature trail through redwoods and giftshop, as well as the fine display of Indian artifacts, is a favorite attraction on Highway 101.

Chuck and Maxine Tichenor have supplied us with a recent issue of the *Fedco Reporter*, the advertising publication that Editor John Bregoli has combined with short historical reports. The March issue, as a sample, had articles, seven in all, on topics from a notorious political figure to a dip back into early history as told through Richard Henry Dana's *Two Years Before the Mast*. CCHS awarded the *Reporter* a merited recognition for this effort a few years ago.

Member Doings

Saving a Trestle

Once, during the heyday of the lumber industry, when trains did the hauling, magnificent trestles spanned the numerous small canyons of the Western Sierra Nevada. Most have been long torn down, some for the lumber in them and some because of the danger represented to people investigating them. A 75-foot high curved trestle with a span of 315 feet over Bourland Creek in Tuolumne County has been saved, possibly to become a link in a Forest Service hiking trail. The US Forest Service put a budget of \$75,000 and a crew to work on replacing rotten timbers last year. **Pam Conners**, past president of the Southern Tuolumne Count Society, and a forest historian, is credited with spearheading the drive to preserve this link to the West Side Logging Company. (From *Stitches*).

More Railway News

Drawn to railway history as a moth to flame, we must report on the reopening of the **Angels Flight Railway**, the "shortest railway in the world," one of two railways that once carried foot traffic up Bunker Hill. Admirers of this incline structure in downtown Los Angeles were dismayed when it was pulled down in 1969. True to its promise, the Community Development Agency returned Angels Flight operation to active status this year. February 23, to be exact. Another celebration took place, sponsored by the **Electric Railway Historical Association of Southern California** on May 18, commemorating the precise anniversary of the railway's closure 27 years earlier. Huell Howser of *California's Gold* PBS series, served as opener of the program, followed by Mayor Richard Riordan

and Chairman Dennis Luna of the Angels Flight Railway Foundation, among others. No better backdrop for a statement, be it political, commercial or historical, than an operating Incline railway!

From *Timepoints*, the journal of the above association, comes another interesting item on the **sowbellies**, a type of railway used extensively on the Los Angeles Railway which, in its heyday, 1902-1913, and thereabouts, had hundreds of these cars in use. Some were rebuilt from older models and some were of new design, but all featured lower entrance steps to accommodate ladies' clothing fashion. The hobble skirt definitely made entering the standard cars in use a challenge!

Ben Minnich's account in the Jan, Feb, March 1996 issue of *Timepoints* of the variations in the types of sowbelly used, and the exciting discovery of two of "the long lost rebuild variety" in the Lucerne Valley above Barstow in 1993 is a bit like a detective story. The final acquisition and the even more perilous move of Sowbellies 34 & 44 from the desert to the Orange Empire Collection in Perris was successful, but the cars still await restoration.

Emeryville Remembers "The Golden Age of Butchertown"

The Spring issue of the Emeryville Historical Society featured an extremely interesting article "The Knights of Cleaver" by Donald Hausler. It describes not only the dexterous meat handlers represented by the Butcher's Union, but also the other specialized jobs created by the slaughterhouse industry. Like in all such communities, a rich social life developed among the hundreds of employed support trades. We missed three earlier installments of this researched account of Emeryville's slaughterhouse industry early days of the 20th Century. A fifth part of the series is promised on the Hotels and Stock Yards District of the City.

Until November 17, 1996
 UCLA Fowler Museum of Cultural History. *Naguel in the Garden: Fantastic Animals in Mexican Ceramics, Dating from 200 A.D. to the present, 150 ceramic images of tricksters and other fantastic beings take on many shapes and forms in response to ancient, colonial, and contemporary times.* Open Wed-Sun, Noon-5:00 pm, Thursday until 8:00 pm. \$5 for adults, free on Thursday, parking is \$5. For information, call (310) 825-4361.

March 6 - July 28

Palm Springs Desert Museum. "George Montgomery: Actor, Artist, Collector," P.O. Box 2288, 101 Museum Drive, Palm Springs, CA 92263 (619) 325-7186.

March 7 - August 31

Courthouse Museum, 21st and N streets, Merced, CA 95340. "What Tangled Webs We Weave: The Fine Art of Lace," No Admission charge but donations will be gladly accepted. Contact Andrea Metz, Museum Director (209) 723-2401.

March 21 - August 24

California Historical Society, Inaugural Exhibition: A sense of historical place for the new location of CHS headquarters, 678 Mission Street, San Francisco (415) 357-1848; FAX 415-357-1850.

May 25 - September 2

Autry Museum of Western Heritage, "Inventing Custer: Legends of the Little Bighorn," Exhibit and Reader's Theater, Griffith Park, 4700 Western Heritage Way, Los Angeles. Admission, \$7.50; srs, stud., \$5; children, \$3.

June 11 - 15

Lincoln Highway Assn, Fourth Annual National Conference and Tour of the Highway. Holiday Inn Downtown, 1000 E. 6th St., Reno, NV 89512.

June 12 and 18

San Mateo County Historical Association, 1700 West Hillsdale Blvd., San Mateo, CA 94402. Junior Archaeology Days at the Sanchez Adobes. (415) 574-6441.

July 4, August 24

History Museum of Santa Cruz County, Evergreen Cemetery Tours, 10 AM, \$1 admission (408) 425-7278.

July 9 - November 10

Healdsburg Museum and Historical Society, P. O. Box 952, Healdsburg, CA 95448. Twentieth Anniversary Exhibition, 1976-1996.

Calendar of Events



July 11 and 12

California Association of Museums, 2002 North Main St., Santa Ana, CA 92706. "Breaking the Mold: Formatting Your Museum for the Future." Doubletree Hotel, Conference Headquarters. Keynote Speaker - Henry Hopkins, Director, UCLA at the Armand Hammer Museum of Art & Cultural Center.

July 12 and 13

Healdsburg Museum and Historical Society. Barn Sale at Healdsburg Classics Antiques, 226 Healdsburg Ave. P.O. Box 952, Healdsburg, CA 95448.

July 18

Rancho Los Cerritos. Summer Evening Picnicking and House Tours, 4600 Virginia Rd., Long Beach 5-8 pm Free (310) 570-1755.

July 21

Long Beach Heritage Coalition. East Village Walking Tour, Meet at 3rd St. and Promenade Mosaic 10am. \$3. Reservation Required. (310) 493-7019.

July 21

San Mateo County Historical Association. History Buffs. 1700 West Hillsdale Blvd., San Mateo, CA 94402. (415) 574-6441.

July 21

Long Beach Heritage Coalition. Downtown Walking Tour. Meet at Breakers Hotel, 210 E. Ocean Blvd., 10am \$3 Reservation Required. (310) 493-7019.

July 21

Rancho Los Cerritos. "Mudmania: A Celebration of Adobe." 4600 Virginia Rd., Long Beach 12:30pm-4:30pm \$3 for 6 yrs. and up, 5 yrs and under are free. (310) 570-1755.

July 21

Rancho Los Alamitos. Hispanic Heritage and Wedding. 6400 Bixby Hill Rd., Long Beach. 12-4:30pm Free (310) 431-3541.

July 23

San Pasqual Battlefield State Historic

Park. Field Trip to the Riverside Municipal Museum in Riverside, (619) 489-0076 (Escondido), (619) 220-5430 (San Diego) or (619) 487-5088.

August 1 - Sept. 2
 Folsom Historical Society. 16th Annual Antique Quilt Show at the Museum. 823 Sutter St., Folsom, CA 95630.

August 8 - 11

Pacific Coast Branch, American Historical Association. Annual Meeting in San Francisco. California Council for the Promotion of History. P.O. Box 221476, Sacramento, CA 95822.

August 10

San Joaquin County Historical Society and Museum. Fifth Annual Celtic Ceilidh. 11am to 6pm; \$4 for adults, \$2 for children. \$4 entrance fee per car to get into Micke Grove Park. Fish and chips, British "Bangers," Scottish meat pies and beverages. 11793 North Micke Grove Rd., (209) 331-2055/(209) 953-3460.

August 11

The Willmore City Heritage Association Home Tours. Willmore City area, Long Beach (310) 435-4162.

August 14

Folsom Historical Society, 823 Sutter St., Folsom, CA 95630. 4th Annual Quilt Day for Kids. Historic Folsom Depot grounds. Free.

August 14 and 15

San Mateo County Historical Association. Junior Archaeology Days at the Sanchez Adobes. 1700 West Hillsdale Blvd., San Mateo, CA 94402. (415) 574-6441.

August 14, 15 16

Donner Memorial State Park and Sierra State Parks Foundation. Wagon Train on the historic Overland Emigrant Trail Truckee Route. Verdi, CA to Truckee, CA via Dog Valley. For reservation to volunteer, or for sponsorship call Frankye Craig (916) 544-3053. Sierra State Parks Foundation, P.O. Box 266, Tahoma, CA 96142.

August 15

Rancho Los Cerritos. Summer Evening Picnicking and House Tours. 4600 Virginia Rd., Long Beach. 5-8 pm Free (310) 570-1755.

August 16, 17, 18

California State Parks and the Sierra State Parks Foundation, at Donner Memorial State Park, Truckee, CA. California Trail

Days, A living history celebration of 150 years of the California emigrant trail, wagon train trail rides, chautaugua, emigrant camps, mountain men, period vendors, music books, authors, family fun. Volunteers or sponsors call Frankye Craig (916) 544-3053. For information call (916) 582-7892. Sierra State Parks Foundation, P.O. Box 266, Tahoma, CA 96142.

August 16, 17, 18

Sierra State Parks Foundation, at the Peppermill Hotel in Reno, NV. Emigrant Family Reunions, Banquet, guided trail tours, conference, Donner Inquisition performance, bus transit to the historic campsites and Trail Days. For reservations, sponsorships or to volunteer, call Frankye Craig (916) 544-3053. Sierra State Parks Foundation, P. O. Box 266, Tahoma, CA 96142.

August 17

Long Beach Heritage Coalition. East Village Walking Tour. Meet at 3rd St. and Promenade Mosaic. 10am \$3 Reservation Required. (310) 493-7019.

August 17

Long Beach Heritage Coalition. Downtown Walking Tour. Meet at Breakers Hotel, 210 E. Ocean Blvd., 10am \$3 Reservation Required. (310) 493-7019.

August 17

Rancho Los Alamitos. Teacher's Workshop on Native American Culture. 6400 Bixby Hill Rd., Long Beach. 9am-1pm Reservations Required. (310) 431-3541.

August 24 and 25

San Mateo County Historical Association. Victoria Days in the Park. Arts, Crafts and

Calendar of Events



History Festival will take place in San Mateo's Central Park, 10:30-5:30 on both days. Featured are 135 arts and craft booths, history displays, fashion shows, reenactments, 19th century children's games, live entertainment from the main stage, food and drink. 1700 West Hillsdale Blvd., San Mateo, CA 94402 (415) 574-6441.

September 6 - 8

California Council for the Promotion of History. Economic History Association meeting in Berkeley. P.O. Box 221476, Sacramento, CA 95822.

September 13 - November 17

Folsom Historical Society. "Indian Harvest Festival: Native American Arts and Customs." At the Museum. 823 Sutter St., Folsom, CA 95630.

September 21

Long Beach Heritage Coalition. East Village Walking Tour. Meet at 3rd St. and Promenade Mosaic. 10am \$3 Reservation Required. (310) 493-7019.

September 21

Long Beach Heritage Coalition. Downtown Walking Tour. Meet at

Breakers Hotel, 210 E. Ocean Blvd., 10am \$3 Reservation Required. (310) 493-7019.

September 22
Historical Society of Centinela Valley. Annual Fiesta, Centinela Adobe Complex, 7634 Midfield, Westchester. 1-4pm (310) 649-6272.

September 29
Rancho Los Alamitos. Cultural Arts Showcase. 6400 Bixby Hill Rd., Long Beach 14-4:30pm Reservation Required. (310) 431-3541.

September 29
Rancho Los Cerritos. Early California Days. 4600 Virginia Rd., Long Beach 12:30-4:30pm \$3 for 6 yrs and up, 5 yrs and under are free. (310) 570-1755.

October 1 - 7
Pacific Railroad Society. Excursion #452, "The Siskiyou: An Autumn Railway Adventure in Northern California." 777-70 E. Valley Blvd., Alhambra, CA 91801; (818) 570-8651 or (213) 283-0087.

October 6
Pacific Western Traders. 25th Anniversary Reception. 305 Wool St., Folsom, CA 95630-2550. (916) 985-3851.

October 17 - 20
California Council for the Promotion of History, Annual Meeting, Sacramento, "The State of History in California," Rand Herbert, (916) 757-2521; E-mail: RFHerbert@aol.com

October 26 - November 3
Pacific Western Traders. Annual Days of the Dead Display. 305 Wool St., Folsom, CA 95630-2550 (916) 985-3851.

Two Purveyors of California History Pass On

We have received saddening news of two deaths from cancer among the persons whose dynamism in their chosen roles for spreading the story about California history has brought them to our attention.

Early this year, **Jerry Reynolds** of the Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society passed away, according to word received through the network of historians who have relied on help from Jerry and who have admired his skills as a teller of tales, a researcher and an artist. His story "The Golden Dream of Francisco Lopez" in the winter 1994 issue of the *Historian* brought comment from a number of sources. His depiction of the early gold discoverer on the front cover of that issue is dramatic and well conceived.

Those persons who attended the 1995 Spring Symposium in the Newhall area are aware of Reynolds' contribution to the depot museum, his extensive writings, and the thoughtful and informative talks he gave as a part of the symposium's program.

Late in April, **Joseph A. King** died following surgery. King's impassioned "new look at the Donner Party" in *Winter of Entrapment*, 1992, P.D. Meany, Publisher, elicited sharp critical response, as well as high praise, from a number of sources, including the *Historian*'s own reviewer. Readers will recall King's fiery defense of his work in a long letter to the editor, another facet of his immense investment in the value of his research on the Donner Party. King was an associate member of the Conference, a former college professor and a prolific writer on the subject of the Irish in America.

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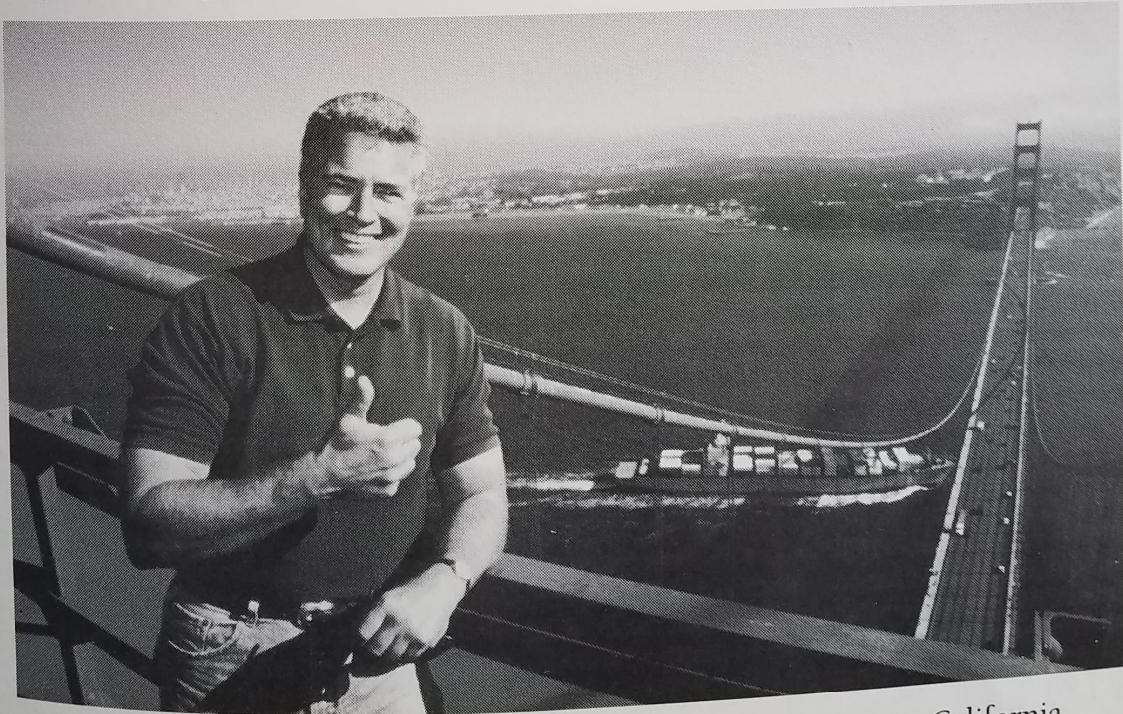
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of Sacramento Valley

Big Sur Natural History Association

Rich Jackson

Adrianna Farley

Hi Desert Nature Museum

David Brown

Bruce P. Hector, M.D.

Lincoln Arts & Culture Foundation

Mr. and Mrs. Baldwin Lamson

Mrs. Lucille Corcel

Ted and Lois Gobin

Wendy Elliott

California Genealogical Alliance

Conference Dates To Remember

1996

June 20-23
Annual Meeting
Lancaster, Los Angeles County

September 27-29
Northern Symposium
Carson City, Nevada

1997

February 16-18
Southern Symposium
Needles (San Bernardino County/High Desert)

June 12-15
Annual Meeting
Stockton (San Joaquin County)

October 3-5 (This is a correction)
Northern Symposium
(Siskiyou County)

1998

February 20-22
Southern Symposium
Fullerton (North Orange County)

June 11-14
Annual Meeting
Torrance (Los Angeles County)

October 2-4
Northern Symposium
Nevada City (Nevada County)

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